THE TIMES

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Moscow offer of freeze on arms spending

War of words continues over embassy bugging

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

With four days to go before Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, arrives in Moscow for arms control talks, both sides yesterday jockeyed for position in the world opinion stakes.

The Warsaw Pact threw down a proposal on military spending which was clearly timed to pick up propaganda points before the crucial meetings.

It proposed a freeze for up to two years both on its own military spending and that of Nato. Similar ideas have been mooted in the past, only to run aground on verification obstacles.

The Pact said that the moratorium could open the way for a reduction of troops and conventional arms in Europe without delay.

A State Department official said that at first sight the proposal looked very significant, but close examination would be needed to determine whether it was more than a propaganda exercise.

Earlier, both the Americans and Russians took up new positions in the "bugged embassies" dispute.

The Americans said that a portable "bubble" would be erected inside their leak-prone Moscow embassy to provide a secure communications room for Mr Shultz during his visit.

The bubble, formally known as a "conferencing facility", replaces an earlier proposal to send a large motorized caravan to Moscow to serve as his office.

American officials let it be known that although "damned upset" by Soviet spying inside the embassy, Mr Shultz felt the trip was too important to cancel.

The Russian authorities, for their part, unveiled evidence of eavesdropping devices which they said had been put into their new embassy in Washington at the behest of United States intelligence services.

The Soviet allegations related not only to the as yet unoccupied new embassy in Washington but to a new residential block in Washington, the consulate in San Francisco and the mission to the United Nations in New York.

A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman in Moscow claimed the state-of-the-art eavesdropping devices were found in the foundations of buildings and in tunnels underneath them, in television sockets, in brick walls and in the ceiling material used for windows.

"The facts here today serve as unambigious proof that there have been massive spy activities against Soviets abroad," the spokesman said.

He alleged that the electronic listening devices were also found in diplomat's bedrooms, in their living quarters and their leisure facilities.

"The huge proportion of electronic eavesdropping by US intelligence against Soviet missions was material evidence of who really intrudes into other's sovereign territory," the statement said.

The "evidence" as well as photographs and diagrams included bits of wiring and cable. The spying equipment was said to include bulky rooftop eavesdroppping devices as well as miniature bugs embedded in walls. Highly sensitive microphones were said to have been found in the foundations of Soviet-used buildings, and radio systems had been discovered in reinforced concrete.

Infra-red signals were alleged to have been used as well as optical transmitters to help the US spying activities.

Mr Ivan Miroshkin of the Foreign Ministry's security department said: "The equipment could only have been put in place by building contractors." Some of the devices had been found, he said, soon after repairs and renovations had been carried out by American building contractors and Russian missions in the United States. Mr Miroshkin said: "Some of the examples were discovered just the other day, and the process of discovering them is still going on."

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Mr Mikhail Gorbachov was mobbed by enthusiastic crowds when he went on a walkabout in Prague shortly after his much-delayed arrival for a three-day visit to Czechoslovakia .....Page 18

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The Princess of Wales shakes hands with an unidentified Aids patient in his private room at the Middlesex Hospital in London during her visit yesterday. (Royal visit, page 18)

Thatcher looks to Europe for help on Japan

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday reiterated Britain's willingness to take sanctions against Japan unless the Japanese opened their markets more to British goods and financial institutions.

But the emphasis is switching to joint action by the European Community as ministers recognize the limitations of unilateral action against Japan.

Amid clashes with Mr Neil Kinnock in the Commons yesterday Mrs Margaret Thatcher disclosed that a meeting of officials from EEC trade ministries in Brussels today will discuss proposals put by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, to his Common Market counterparts in Antwerp last weekend, with a view to urgent action.

They will be considering: more effective action against the dumping of components by Japan; the possible "unbinding" of Community tariffs on certain products and any measures which might be necessary to act against diversion if the United States implements protective duties against Japan.

The British hope is that by "unbinding" tariffs agreed under GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) the meeting will enable EEC countries to lift the tariffs on Japanese consumer electronics.

As a side-effect of the enlargement of the EEC to include Spain and Portugal, Japan has been able to send in tape recorders, compact discs, microwave ovens and the like with payment of no more than a 7 per cent tariff.

The aim is to lift that as soon as possible to the 14 per cent tariff already applying to some other Japanese goods.

On anti-dumping measures, Britain is looking for specific action to limit the flood of Japanese goods which are arriving for simple screwdriver assembly, including photocopiers.

As for the question of diversion, the Government fears that Japan may try to swamp Europe with goods if she finds that American markets are closed to her by the actions threatened in the US and is anxious to have European counteraction coordinated from the start.

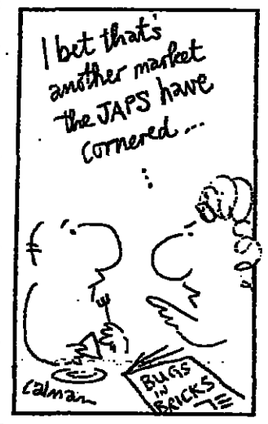
However, although Mrs Thatcher made much of the Brussels meeting in her Commons replies it is no more than a monthly get-together of officials at Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary level.

And the British are well aware, as Mrs Thatcher made clear in the Commons, that the Danes, the Dutch and the Germans by no means share our anxiety for swift action against Japan.

Though a statement from the Government outlining some initial moves and a Commons debate are expected soon after Easter, there is some nervousness among ministers that the Government may have excited expectations of action against Japan which it cannot fulfil.

They were warning yesterday that it will take a long time to tackle Japan effectively on Britain's trade imbalance, and that it will require collective action by the EEC and by GATT (which does not meet until November).

In the Commons Mr Kinnock condemned the visit to Japan by Mr Michael Howard, the Minister for Consumer Affairs, as a fruitless exercise. Parliament, page 4



Government to investigate House of Fraser takeover

By John Bell, City Editor

The Government has appointed inspectors to investigate House of Fraser, the department store chain which owns Harrods. The decision was taken after the international trading group Lonrho supplied information to the Department of Trade during the past three weeks.

Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the chief executive of Lonrho, has been waging a campaign to force an investigation of the £565 million takeover of House of Fraser by the Egyptian-born Al-Fayed brothers in 1985. The brothers made their cash offer after purchasing a key block of almost 30 per cent of Fraser shares from Lonrho.

The inspectors appointed by Mr Paul Channon, the Trade Secretary, are a lawyer and an accountant. Mr Philip Heslop, QC, the lawyer, is coincidentally acting currently for Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman of Guinness.

The accountant is Mr Hugh Aldous of the City firm Robson Rhodes.

Mr Channon has asked the inspectors to look at the circumstances surrounding the acquisition of shares in House of Fraser during 1984 and 1985.

Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed said last night that "our immediate reaction is to welcome the inquiry as an opportunity to clear this matter up once and for all."

INSIDE

Appeal to Gorbachov by Herzog

On the last full day of his West German tour, President Herzog of Israel used a visit to West Berlin to launch "an appeal across the Wall" to Mr Mikhail Gorbachov to fulfil his reform policy by "opening the gates" and letting Soviet Jews out .....Page 8

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IN PART 2

Lloyd's plan

Lloyd's of London has proposed a final solution to end what is described as "one of the most shameful episodes" in its history, the long-running PCW scandal .....Page 19

England win

England's cricketers beat Australia by 11 runs to go top of the Sharjah Cup table on run rate with one match remaining.....Page 34

Portfolio Gold

- Yesterday's £4,000 prize in The Times Portfolio Gold competition was won by Mr D.Ryde, of Newhaven, and Wednesday's delayed £4,000 prize by Dr T.C.Sharma, of Airdrie. Details, page 3.
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Company to cut 2,000 jobs

Younger bails out Westland

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The Government announced what amounted to a £300 million rescue package yesterday for the Westland helicopter company which has been facing a grim short-term future because of its empty order book.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, announced that he would be ordering 25 of the new EH101 helicopters for the Army and 16 Lynxes for airmobile operations.

Although the orders had been largely anticipated, it was clear that the Lynx order had not been budgeted for and the Treasury will have to find an extra £50 million to £100 million over and above the £19 billion defence budget.

A senior government source admitted last night that the extra order was "a help package" to sustain Britain's only helicopter manufacturing company.

Despite yesterday's announcement which was welcomed by Westland, urgent talks will be held with the workforce to decide where the inevitable redundancies will have to fall.

A spokesman for the Westland chairman, Sir John Cuckney, said last night that it was likely that jobs would have to be cut by one third, which would mean 2,000 redundancies. The most vulnerable plant will be the Weston-super-Mare factory, which employs 1,100 people. A further 900 or so will have to go at at Yeovil in Somerset.

Mr Jerry Wiggin, Conservative MP for Weston-super-Mare, said in the Commons yesterday that it had already been decided that the factory in his constituency would be closed, which was "outrageous". However the spokesman for Sir John denied that a decision had yet been made.

Mr Denzil Davies, Labour defence spokesman, accused Mr Younger of making a statement that was a blow to the Westland company and that the orders would not make up for the deficiency in battlefield helicopters.

But Mr Younger rounded

Continued on page 18, col 7

Labour pledge on united Ireland

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Labour Party yesterday pledged itself more strongly than ever before to work for a united Ireland and to prevent the Unionist majority in Ulster exercising a veto against political developments or policies designed to win consent for unification.

A new party policy statement agreed after months of delicate internal negotiations made clear that Labour's long-standing commitment that unification could only take place with the consent of the majority of the people in Northern Ireland stands.

But under a Labour government the Unionists would not be able to block political developments falling short of unification, but designed ultimately to achieve that end.

Among the measures immediately proposed is the establishment with the republic of a programme to harmonize the economic and welfare systems throughout Ireland.

The document, *New Rights, New Prosperity and New Hope for Northern Ireland*, was described by Mr Peter Archer, the party's chief spokesman on Northern Ireland, as an updating, rather than a change, in the party's policy.

But he acknowledged there were important changes in emphasis. It made clear that "although we believe in unification by consent we do pledge ourselves to work for consent."

He added: "We also make clear what was implicit in past statements. The fact that there will be consent before there is any constitutional transformation does not mean there is a veto over political discussions and political initiatives and political experiments."

He suggested the implication of the document for the Unionists was: "Whether you regard this as a step down the road to unification you need not be afraid that if you get further down the road that there will be an open gate at the end of it."

He acknowledged the Unionists would not be "terribly happy" about the document. "But you have to level with people honestly about what is on your minds. A lot of the proposals in this document would benefit the Unionists and have nothing to do with unification. But I can understand their suspicion that everything is to do with unification."

The document appears to be a compromise between those who wanted no change in the party's stance and a body of opinion within the party which wanted the veto on unification to be significantly weakened.

The document commits Labour to supporting the Anglo-Irish agreement's position that no change in the status of Northern Ireland could happen without majority consent but adds that "no group or party should or will be allowed to exercise a veto on political development or on policies designed to win consent."

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Tory MEPs rebel over UK's research stand

From Jonathan Braude, Strasbourg

The European Parliament yesterday condemned the British Government's refusal to provide funds for EEC research programmes, as more than half the British Conservatives rebelled against the Government's stand.

The assembly voted by 141-4 with one abstention in support of a motion deploring the Government's attitude as "dominated by a narrowly national and budgetary approach", and giving Britain three weeks to change its mind.

The motion called on Britain not to "veto" the creation of a "technological community" of EEC nations.

The vote, timed to coincide with a crucial Cabinet discussion on research spending in London, was the climax of a long-running parliamentary campaign to get Britain to agree to a five-year £5 billion programme of research.

Bodies returned to Dover

From David Sapsted
Zeebrugge

The first bodies to be recovered since the Herald of Free Enterprise was righted are expected to be shipped back to Dover today. It is possible that up to 70 victims will be returned by the weekend.

Mr Richard Sturt, Dover coroner, and the Belgian judge heading the inquiry into the disaster, agreed yesterday on the need to repatriate bodies as quickly as possible.

Kent police officers in Zeebrugge said last night that the process of identifying victims was going very smoothly and appealed, once more, for relatives to stay at home.

The bodies are first taken to a makeshift morgue in a hangar at the Zeebrugge Naval Base, where a team of 16 British pathologists work alongside Belgian colleagues.

Work by divers to recover bodies was called off yesterday evening after they had found eight more corpses. The seven-man Royal Navy team is likely to be withdrawn today.

State officials in West Flanders also said yesterday that there had been a mistake in Wednesday's figure of 123 bodies recovered since the righting operation. The figure last night stood at 112, plus 61 found before Tuesday's salvage.

A Townsend Thoresen spokesman said B and C decks, the main passenger areas, were now believed to be clear of bodies, although Belgian rescue teams will continue the search today, particularly in the wrecked kitchen area where debris has accumulated.

High-pressure water pumps were used yesterday to clear mud from the port side of the ship.

The Dutch salvage crew is hopeful that the Herald's own hydraulic system can be used to close the undamaged, watertight inner doors. Divers also confirmed yesterday that the ship's hull was not damaged in the tragedy.

Making the vessel watertight and refloating it could take another two weeks. Then it will be possible to recover up to 20 bodies believed still to be entombed

Ferry safety, page 2

See-the-stars tours at Hollywood on the Irwell

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

An £8 million tourism development could next summer launch the Granada television and film studios in central Manchester as Europe's first equivalent of Hollywood's Universal Studios with see-the-stars tours.

The best-known set on the 15 riverside acres just north of the Manchester city centre is that for *Coronation Street*.

The plan emerged yesterday when an offer of £750,000 Government support for the project was announced by Mr David Trippier, minister for tourism at the Department of Employment. It is expected to create several hundred jobs.

At Granada Television, whose chairman Mr David Plowright first had the idea of exploiting the studios' potential, the project has apparently informally been dubbed "Hollywood on the Irwell" after the name of the nearby river. The official line is that it is Britain's first urban heritage park and a new Granada Group subsidiary, Granada Tours, will be in charge of the development which will also have some elements of a Disney-style theme park with animated characters and live entertainment.

Three-hour studio tours are envisaged, possibly at about £5 a head, and those going during the week would see rehearsals or shooting for the studio productions. It would mean, down on the *Coronation Street* set, seeing Jean Alexander playing charring Hilda Ogden, Julie Goodyear landladying at the Rovers Return and William Roache, the longest serving actor on the Street, apppearing as Ken Barlow.

In planning the move Granada has noted how other settings for television series have lured the tourist. Coach trips to the locales of *Emmerdale Farm* and *Last of the Summer Wine* have been booming.

Increased Government aid flowing into tourism will help make 1987 a bumper year, according to Mr Trippier. Last December, the latest month for which statistics are available, north American visitors were up 10 per cent on the 1985 level.

This trend and a high level of forward bookings promises well for 1987, it is claimed in an analysis of tourism in 1986 published yesterday as a Department of Employment booklet *A Bumper Year for Tourism*.

In the past year the Government, mainly through tourist boards, agreed £25 million in help for 1,400 projects which are expected to generate close on 5,000 jobs. This year assistance will rise by another £3 million.

These grantsin Scotland last year helped gear up £36 million in total investment, another £14.5 million in Wales amd £110 million in England.

The biggest involvement so far has been an English Tourist Board (ETB) grant of £1.5 million to support the Sherwood Forest holiday village and "pleasure dome" which Holland's Center Parcs plans to open this summer. Other likely candidates in the future for assistance will be big schemes like the theme park attractions planned at Battersea Power Station and WonderWorld at Corby, Northamptonshire.

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NEWS SUMMARY

Poll puts paid to teachers' claims

Most parents in England and Wales believe that teachers are neither underpaid nor justified in striking over the Government's decision to remove their negotiating rights.

A MORI poll commissioned by *The Times Educational Supplement*, published yesterday, found that 54 per cent of those questioned thought that teachers were not underpaid, 33 per cent thought they were and 13 per cent did not know.

Asked whether teachers were justified in striking, 54 per cent said no, 39 per cent said yes and 7 per cent did not know. The majority against the teachers rose to 61 per cent among parents of children at secondary school. The greatest support came from Labour voters, 56 per cent of whom said they were justified in striking.

The poll, the first real test of parental opinion since the dispute began three years ago, contradicts the repeated claim of the two biggest teaching unions, which intend to continue strikes after Easter, that most parents support them.

Record heroin haul

Detectives from Scotland Yard's drug squad have seized eight kilos of heroin worth £1.25 million in a raid on a flat in central London during an investigation code-named Operation Duplicate. It is the largest haul of heroin made by police in Britain.

Two people were being questioned last night by detectives at Paddington Police Station. One man was arrested in a flat in Kendal Street where the drugs were found. The second man was discovered at a restaurant which was being used as a meeting place for a deal.

The heroin, one kilo of which had been broken up into 4,000 quarter-gram portions for distribution, is believed to be part of a major source of supply for the West End.

700 yard jobs to go

Union leaders in Northern Ireland fear that the loss of a further 700 jobs at Harland and Wolff shipyard will lead to the eventual closure of the province's second largest manufacturing employer.

The white-collar redundancies at the shipyard, which once employed 25,000 people and was a symbol of "loyalist" hegemony, are expected to be announced within days. They will reduce the workforce to 3,500, the lowest level in its 125-year history.

Contract pledge

Swan Hunter, the shipbuilding company based on Tyneside, is preparing a £120 million attempt to build a fleet auxiliary vessel which may safeguard jobs.

Mr George Younger, the Secretary for Defence, has said the company will be awarded the contract for the Royal Navy's second auxiliary oil refueling vessel if it can match the price of the first ship, now being built at Harland and Wolff in Belfast.

The loss of the first ship led to 800 redundancies at Swan Hunter.

IRA funeral rethink

The Provisional IRA may reconsider its policy of firing volleys of shots at the funerals of "volunteers".

This follows the controversy surrounding the funeral of one of its members in Northern Ireland.

Mr Danny Morrison, a leading figure in Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, said the IRA may honour its dead by firing shots over a memorial some time after a funeral rather than over the coffin during the funeral.

Meanwhile Dr Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Conor, has said funerals are not occasions for paramilitary propaganda stunts or the display of police or military strength.

Parliament, page4

Dyke off to LWT



Mr Greg Dyke, chief of programmes at Television South, is to replace Mr John Birt as director of programmes at London Weekend Television. Mr Birt has been appointed BBC deputy director-general.

Mr Dyke, aged 39, led the revival of TV-am, where he was editor-in-chief before joining TVS three years ago. A former newspaper journalist, Mr Dyke spent six years at LWT, as producer of *Weekend World* and editor of *The Six O'Clock Show*, before TV-am.

Appeal over lost jobs

Two Liverpool council employees yesterday asked the High Court to prevent the city's new caretaker Liberal council from dismissing them because of their alleged Militant links.

Mr Sam Bond, a race relations adviser, and Miss Beryl Molyneux, a former crossing patrol woman who was appointed assistant press officer in the council's education department, expect a ruling today.

A writ was served on Lord Mayor Lady Jones as she formally opened her first full council meeting two weeks ago.

Bishop resents interference by right-wing MPs

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Churchmen reacted resentfully yesterday to the report that right-wing Conservative MPs had intervened to stop the Bishop of Stepney, the Rt Rev James Thompson, from becoming Bishop of Birmingham because he was "too left wing".

The man chosen instead as bishop-elect of Birmingham, the present Bishop of Kensington, the Rt Rev Mark Santer, was promptly invited by a fellow bishop to show he was not right wing either, and could "thump the tub" with the best of them.

The Bishop of Kensington responded with a statement declaring it to be his duty to love "above all, the poor and disadvantaged" and to engage in controversy in the cause of justice, without playing the role of politician. He stood "shoulder to shoulder with all my fellow bishops in believing that you cannot love God without loving your neighbour".

He said the wide consultations he had made before deciding to accept the nomination were not connected with the issues reported in *The Times* yesterday, of which he was unaware.

The man who will be his second in command in Birmingham, the Bishop of Aston, the Rt Rev Colin Buchanan, said he had telephoned Bishop Santer after seeing the report in *The Times*, to tell him that "he would be very wise to make it clear he is not a right winger, as he is certainly not".

He told the *World at One* programme on BBC radio that if any right-wing MP had been "crowing" about preventing a left-wing bishop from being appointed, it should be checked out whether he was really entitled to crow. "You must ask whether the new Bishop of Birmingham is prepared to thump the tub, and my impression is he is. I certainly am."

He said he had long believed that the Prime Minister's role should be eliminated from the process of selecting bishops of the Church of England, and that, well before knowing who had been appointed to Birmingham he had been arguing along the lines of the remark attributed to him in *The Times* yesterday. He had tabled a motion for debate by his diocesan synod in June.

Bishop Buchanan was chairman of the Birmingham Vacancy-in-See Committee which had advised the Crown Appointments Commission, and was responding to yesterday's report that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had chosen the second preference put forward by the commission, the Bishop of Kensington, after lobbying by Conservative MPs against the first choice, the Bishop of Stepney.

He was described by them as "too left wing", and Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, MP for Selly Oak, declared that Birmingham "had had enough left wingers and did not need another tub-thumping bishop".

Concerning the Bishop of Stepney, he said: "I have no reason to connect his name officially with this particular appointment whatsoever. We discussed a whole variety of names."

Civil Servants threatening to bring country to a halt

By Roland Rudd and Ian Smith

The general secretaries of the two largest Civil Service unions yesterday warned the Government that it could face the most serious Civil Service strike in British history if their pay demands were not met.

In the event of an all-out strike, customs, passport and immigration posts at air and sea ports would be unmanned, courts severely hit and all VAT, Department of Employment and DHSS offices closed down.

Britain yesterday faced a massive backlog of export freight after the Transport and General Workers Union blacked exports from the Customs and Excise inland clearance depots in support of striking Civil Servants.

The strikers have closed 13 of Britain's depots, while work-to-rule action is causing disruption at ports and airports.

In Southend, Essex, about fifty computer operators at the Customs and VAT collection centre walked out after a midnight ballot, costing the Government millions of pounds in lost interest.

Mr John Macreadie, a militant supporter on the executive committee of the Civil and Public Servants Association, said the rank and file had now taken the initiative into their own hands and were now "leading the hugely successful strike".

The Government has until May 18 to improve the offer of 4.25 per cent so far rejected as "derisory". If no improced offer is made, the 235,000 members of the association and the Society of Civil and Public Servants will be balloted and asked to support an all-out strike starting on June 1.

Mr John Ellis, general secretary of the CPSA said: "Our members have had enough of being ignored and belittled. They are so incensed they will bring the entire country grinding to a halt unless our reasonable demands are met.

"Compared with the immediate effect our action will have, every other strike will pale into insignificance. As responsible people we are loath to withdraw our labour, but the Government's attitude leaves us with no choice."

Mr Ellis said 100,000 Civil Servants take home less than £100 a week; 40,000 counter staff in social security offices face the embarrassment of having to claim the same benefits they pay out to needy families each day.

A mass rally by more than 700 Civil Servants from both unions took place in Liverpool yesterday when they marched from the Pier Head to the city centre Philharmonic Hall to be addressed by their union leaders.

Mr Leslie Christie, general secretary of the SCPS, told the mass meeting that their chance of success in the pay battle far outweighed those of the miners who failed to win government concessions despite a bitter 12 month strike.

In Wales an estimated 10,000 striking Civil Servants stepped up their industrial action. The Welsh Office said a third of its staff of 2,200 were on strike.

Customs officers who joined a two-day token strike at Cardiff Airport yesterday relied upon the honesty of returning holidaymakers to declare duty payable on incoming goods. Honesty boxes were left at Customs checkpoints.

NIPSA, the trade union for Civil Servants in Northern Ireland, announced that 1,600 of its members in the DHSS would strike for the whole of next week.



Striking Civil Servants outside the closed DHSS office in Brixton yesterday. From the left they are Hassan Hassan, Carole Johnson, Stuart Collins, deputy branch secretary of the Civil and Public Servants Association, and Ross Fisher-Smith. (Photograph: Leslie Lee)

Crisis point at benefit office

Frustrated claimants found DHSS doors locked in the North West and in Wales yesterday as thousands of Civil Servants went on strike claiming they are underpaid and undermanned. Later the strike will hit offices in Scotland and then the South — but there is anger and violence is already erupting at claims counters. Roland Rudd visited Brixton, south London, and found bitterness and chaos.

"The DHSS will never do anything for you unless you swear at them like hell", said Mr Bernard Johnson, a former council youth worker who is now unemployed. "No wonder people want to burn the place down."

Mr Johnson, aged 34, waited two months for his unemployment benefit before learning that the Brixton office had lost his forms.

Earlier this week he spent most of one day queuing for a new form and was then told they were out of stock.

Yesterday he tried again, but after hours of fruitless waiting he stormed out in disgust.

Other frustrated claimants frequently express their anger more violently. Last month a man who had been waiting for his allowance for over five weeks burst into the staff room and demanded money immediately.

Another angry claimant kicked in door panels when told that his claim could not be processed immediately.

A mother threatened to leave her baby behind if she could not get money for food within the hour. Others smash up the waiting room in blind rage. Often the police have to be called.

At the sharp end of the violence are Civil Servants like Mr Stuart Collins, aged 26, an administrative officer, whose take home pay is £495 a month (including London weighting). He is far from being the lowest paid.

He and 170 other Civil Servants are currently struggling through 1,555 outstanding claims clogging-up Brixton's pending trays.

Two thirds of the Brixton office members of the Civil and Public Services Association voted for an all-out strike, but union officials are hoping that, in an election year, current tactics will persuade the Government to increase their 4.25 per cent offer, if only by another 2 or 3 per cent.

At the bottom of the rung, administrative assistants aged over 19 get £4,378 a year. Sixteen-year-olds get £3,000 with an increase of £1,000-plus after four years.

Financial mistakes uncovered at college

By Sarah Thompson
Education Reporter

Financial investigators at University College, Cardiff, which has a projected deficit of nearly £17 million by 1990, have uncovered serious mismanagement of funds.

But college authorities yesterday confirmed that no action was contemplated against any present or former members of staff.

Drastic cost-cutting measures are proposed to reduce the deficit.

A report on the college's Centenary Fund, made by three lecturers with Dr Catherine Belsey as chairman, has found that the fund organizers raised only £23,000 instead of the £1.5 million planned for a large sports complex.

Professor Lee Sheridan, the college's acting principal, said yesterday that the fund's debts would be paid by the college, adding to its present debts of £4.5 million.

He added: "We are also discovering a number of smaller debts that were previously unknown, though they do not add much to the total".

The three lecturers' report alleges "questionable accounting practices" and legal errors.

Mr John King, the fund organizer, has resigned from the college. He was said by Professor Sheridan to have counted as future revenue large sums promised by the local community.

Professor Sheridan said that he had instigated the report on finding that two separate sets of accounts for the fund, from September 1986 and March 1987, did not coincide.

"There is no suggestion of any impropriety on the part of staff or that anyone has made off with funds", he added.

Industry warned of 'hidden' manifesto

By Richard Evans
Political Correspondent

The former head of Mrs Thatcher's Downing Street policy unit said yesterday that Labour's "hidden" manifesto of sweeping nationalization could spark off an employment and industrial crisis.

Mr John Redwood, a prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate, said Britain's businessmen were largely unaware of the extent of Labour's plans for state control of industry.

Labour's industrial policy was "full of old-fashioned red-blooded Marxism", apart from a few encouraging proposals about wider ownership.

He was speaking at the launch of a booklet he had written for Aims of Industry, the free enterprise organization, and entitled *Labour's Nationalization Policies: what they are afraid to say, they're not afraid to carry out.*

Mr Redwood, who worked at Downing Street between 1983 and 1985, said Labour's policy of "social ownership" would undoubtedly mean wide-ranging nationalization and state control.

"It is not just a case of renationalization. It would also mean a major attack upon many successful private enterprises. The construction, drug and steel industries would be at the centre of this assault."

Such measures had to be seen against the background of Labour's "incredible" economic strategy, which Mr Redwood said would involve spending an extra £34,000 million while increasing income tax by only two or three pence.

'More to come' on MPs' shares

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Mr Keith Best, the Conservative MP who made multiple applications for British Telecom shares, broke his week-long silence yesterday to explain why he had decided to carry on till the general election before resigning.

As he did so Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, told journalists at Westminster that he should have resigned immediately.

"The reason he has not is that the Prime Minister is afraid of a by-election in North Wales."

In the Commons, the Labour MP Mr William Hamilton suggested further scandals were about to break over multiple applications by Conservative MPs for British Gas shares.

"The same honourable members who engaged in malpractices on the purchase of British Telecom shares were in the same business on British Gas shares", he said.

Both Mr Best and Mr Eric Cockeram, Tory MP for Ludlow, have admitted making more than one British Telecom application, though Mr Cockeram said his second application was on behalf of his grandchild.

Mr Best said in an interview on BBC radio that his immediate resignation would cause a by-election within weeks of a general election and that he did not want to inflict two elections on the people of Anglesey within a short time.

He also wanted to finish cases he was pursuing on behalf of constituents.

● Mr Gareth Wardell, Labour MP for Gower, has admitted misusing pre-paid House of Commons envelopes to send leaflets to his constituents, and agreed to refund the postage costs.

Ferry safety

Airline procedures likely for ships

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

New regulations to bring sea travel more into line with aviation safety rules are likely in the wake of the inquiry into the loss of the Herald of Free Enterprise.

Although ministers and officials within the Department of Transport are officially waiting for the outcome of the inquiry into the ferry disaster off Zeebrugge before proposing any changes, there is a growing awareness of the safety gap between passengers in an aircraft and those in a ship or ferry.

The Civil Aviation Authority has blanket powers not only to check the structural and mechanical safety of an aircraft but also to carry out spot checks into all the procedures employed by the airline which operates it.

It has ordered that passengers must receive detailed emergency instructions before the aircraft is allowed to take off, for example, and enforce strict rules for crew about drinking within nine hours of a flight's departure.

Although there is no evidence that the disaster to the Herald of Free Enterprise was connected with either of those regulations, the whole area of difference between safety at sea and safety in the air is now open to debate. A tighter set of regulations is almost certain to follow.

One main difficulty is in ticketing. An aircraft has a detailed list of passengers and a breakdown of whether they are male, female or child.

That is to enable the captain accurately to predict the weight of his aircraft and therefore the amount of fuel he has on board.

A ferry, however, has no such list and is regarded more as a train that floats rather than an aircraft on the sea.

The Department of Transport is looking into ways of ensuring that such a manifest is produced in future, but is coming up against severe practical difficulties.

Every pilot of a commercial aircraft must strictly follow check lists, numbering more than 100 items, before the aircraft can leave and can abort the flight instantly, with no come back from anyone, if he is not happy.

● Operating procedures on Townsend Thoresen car ferries have been radically revised since the capsize of the Herald of Free Enterprise (our Transport Correspondent writes).

The most fundamental change introduced is that procedures are now based on "positive" reporting under which crewmen have formally to report that a task, for example closing the bow doors, has been carried out. Their ferries will not now sail until the master has received that report verbally.

Previously the system was one of "negative reporting" under which it was assumed that a task had been completed, and a verbal report was only supposed to be made when for any reason an order could not be carried out.

Although Townsend Thoresen refused to confirm it, it is understood that before the recent revision its operating instructions said that a master was entitled to assume everything was in order unless a department head informed him to the contrary.

The changes were introduced soon after the Zeebrugge disaster.

Why King's favourites escape taxes

By Alan Hamilton

County historians in the West Midlands went burrowing in their archives yesterday to discover why the village of Knighton in Staffordshire should have got away without paying rates for 327 years.

The anomaly came to light this week when Stafford Borough Council, the village's rating authority, discussed whether Knighton might lose its unique privilege were the Government to replace the present rating system with a poll tax. They decided they had no idea, so asked officials to look into the historical quirk.

The reason why the 31 houses, the Haberdasher's Arms public house, and a Cadbury's chocolate factory should enjoy freedom from all but water rates has been the subject of much local speculation, and probably invention.

A favourite Knighton theory is that, while journeying through Staffordshire, the newly restored King Charles II found himself short of cash until a village resident stepped in with a timely loan.

According to Mr George Baugh, editor of the Victoria County Histories volume for Shropshire, the truth is slightly different.

In 1656 Mr William Adams, a London haberdasher and native of Knighton, conveyed his lands in the village to the Haberdashers' Company for the endowment of a school named after him just across the county boundary in Newport, Shropshire. The Adams School still exists.

Charles had reason to be grateful to that area of Staffordshire; thanks to the loyalty of local residents he had several times escaped from his pursuers.

"But it is not known precisely what debt the King was repaying when he assented to the Act freeing William Adams' lands from all taxes in perpetuity", Mr Baugh said.

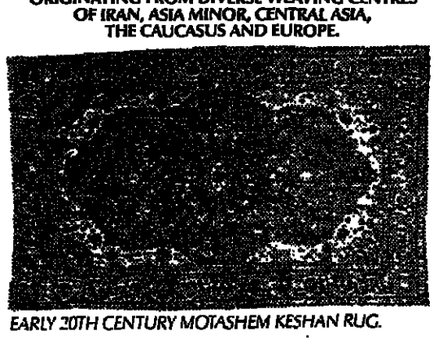
The Stafford councillors who discussed Knighton this week guessed that, under a poll tax as proposed by the Government, domestic non-ratepayers of Knighton would probably have to pay up at last, but that the chocolate factory and the public house would remain exempt.

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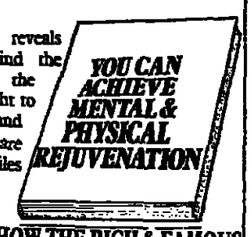
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Controllers report major breakdowns at air traffic centre

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

An alarming picture of low morale, inadequate equipment and a stressful workload has been painted by air traffic controllers working at the main control centre at West Drayton, near Heathrow Airport.

The centre handles all traffic, both civil and military, flying into, out of and through UK airspace over the whole of England and Wales and the surrounding seas, while control towers at airports deal only with local traffic.

The controllers, who are opposing proposals put by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to reduce the number of staff, recently persuaded the Institute of Aviation Medicine at Farnborough, Hampshire, to allow them to write notes about their problems in a confidential reporting system known as Chirp. It is, ironically, funded by the CAA and was set up to allow pilots to "let off steam".

About 10 controllers, writing anonymously, used the system to report claims that their management did not take any notice of them, that the computer often broke down and that they were under stress from the increasing number of flights using British airspace.

One such note was included in the medical institute's report, circulated to airlines and others directly involved in aviation safety.

The anonymous controller said that the main computer which controls civil aircraft using Britain's main airports broke down two or three times a month; that the maps and manuals they used were out of date and that equipment could not be trusted.

The institute emphasized it was not involved in deciding whether the criticisms were justified but said the note was "representative".

The CAA denied last night that there was any trouble with the computer, an IBM 9020D, which was in wide use in the United States.

However, it said that, although the system itself was reliable, there were problems with the main power supply and the softwear, which had led to two breakdowns within the last few months and which had meant that manual methods of controlling the flow of traffic had to be used.

"This may be significant in terms of delay but not of safety", the CAA said.

It also denied that maps and documents were out of date and said that problems with closed circuit systems would be solved later this year when new equipment was installed.

A worrying aspect of the reports from the controllers is that relating to morale. If the claims they make are correct then there is a genuine problem at West Drayton.

"Alarmist" figures for air misses are greatly exaggerated — there were only 12 risk-bearing near-miss incidents involving commercial aircraft in 1985 compared with 35 in 1976 — but any psychological disturbance among controllers could be even more dangerous than failure of equipment.



A view down the Long Room at Lord's as potential buyers look at lots in next week's auction of cricket memorabilia. Mrs Victoria Wolcough, of Christie's, holds lot 665, an eighteenth century oak bat (Photographs by Graham Wood).

MCC turns out basement for auction

By Gavin Bell

Viewing began in the Long Room at Lord's in London yesterday for an auction of cricketing memorabilia from its basement.

Many of the items feature the patriarchal figure of W.G. Grace, who notched up 126 centuries and took 2,876 wickets.

Other articles of interest to collectors include a handbill for a match at Kennington Oval in 1852, starring "Eleven Greenwich Pensioners with One Arm against Eleven Greenwich Pensioners with One Leg".

There is also a printed letter from the the MCC to G.H.M. Cartwright, Esq, commemorating his century against Aldershot Command in 1913, and inviting him "to purchase a bat and debit the MCC with a sum not exceeding one guinea".

Admirers of Sir Pelham Warner, the former England captain and MCC president, may acquire a pair of cream wool tennis shorts bearing his name, valued at £80-£120.

The MCC hopes to realize a sum of six figures from the sale of more than 1,000 items from its reserve collection, to restore and expand its main displays.

However, the Museums Association has accused the MCC of unfair play, saying the auction next Monday contravenes its code of practice under which objects should be offered first to other museums.

Mr Ian Robertson, president of the Museums Association, said: "Those people who have given prized objects to the MCC's museum over the years did so because they wanted them preserved."

Mr Rory Quinn, chairman of the regional museums service, added: "This is a museum collection, and as such is considered by the public to be held in trust for cricket enthusiasts now and forever."

In a joint statement, they said the sale seriously jeopardized future public funding for the museum.

Batting for the club, Mr Michael Sissons defended the decision by saying it was merely selling off "an attractive rag-bag of oddments from the basement".



Handbill for a novelty cricket match, estimated at £50.



Coloured albumen print of W.G. Grace, also for auction.

Portfolio Gold

Winner's family in conference

A family conference is being planned by the winner of yesterday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000.

Mr Derek Ryde, aged 75, of Church Hill, Newhaven, East Sussex, the sole winner yesterday, said it was a marvellous surprise. But he was not taking any decisions on how to spend the money until he had consulted his three daughters.

Dr Jagadish Sharma, aged 48, of Etive Drive, Airdrie, Strathclyde, was the sole winner of Wednesday's Portfolio Gold prize of £4,000, which was delayed for a day because of printing problems. Dr Sharma said he would spend it on a holiday to India.

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Thriller gave the clue to girl's illness

An Agatha Christie thriller helped a nurse to identify a child's illness, according to a report in *The Lancet* today (Our Science Correspondent writes).

The nurse was reading *A Pale Horse*, which includes a description of a poison, when a girl aged 21 months was admitted to a London hospital.

Doctors suspected poisoning, but failed to find the cause, until the nurse suggested that the child might have been poisoned by thallium, the substance mentioned in the book.

Missile just misses walkers

By Our Air Correspondent

A couple out for a stroll in their garden were a few feet away from becoming the first casualties from parts falling from aircraft.

Mr Roger Harris, aged 48, a Civil Servant, and his wife Eileen were walking their four dogs when a dummy Sidewinder missile filled with concrete crashed through a tree and broke into four sections before burying itself in their lawn in the village of Lapford, Devon.

It had fallen from an RAF Hawk jet which was returning from an exercise to its base at Chivenor, about 25 miles away.

In the last three years there have been 55 reported cases of parts falling from aircraft. They range from small nuts and bolts to an 8ft long by 1ft wide leading edge flap which fell from a Boeing 747 airliner in September 1985.

There have been no fatal accidents as a result of the incidents, and only one small injury reported in the last 10 years.

But the number of incidents is worrying airlines and safety authorities.

The parts often fall from a great height and include inspection hatches, engine cowlings, tow bars and, on one occasion, a parking chock which smashed through the roof of the New Covent Garden market at Nine Elms, south London.

The RAF is investigating the latest incident.

15% rise in house prices

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

House prices showed a sharp increase last month and are likely to rise by 14-15 per cent this year, the Halifax Building Society forecast in a survey published yesterday.

The Halifax house price index shows that prices rose by 15.2 per cent in the year to March,compared with 14.9 per cent for the year to February.

Over the three months to the end of March prices rose by 3.4 per cent, compared with 2.7 per cent for the three months to February.

The strengthening of house price inflation is reflected largely in the prices of second-hand properties, which went up on an annual basis by 15.7 per cent last month.

The annual rise in new house prices declined from 14 per cent to 12.4 per cent between February and March.

The average price of all houses now stands at £44,972, with new houses at £53,282.

In Greater London prices remain buoyant, showing an increase of 26.1 per cent in the year to March, and of 24.1 per cent in the south-east.

Although house price inflation fell back slightly in the West Midlands, the north-west and Northern Ireland over the past year, it accelerated to reach over 10 per cent in Yorkshire and Humberside, over 13 per cent in the East Midlands, 16 per cent in the south-west and almost 20 per cent in East Anglia.

The society believes that prices are essentially being pushed up by demand rising faster than supply, and argues that shortage of land available for housebuilding is a serious problem

Soap 'remedy' for rabies

A doctor told an inquest yesterday that washing an animal bite with lots of soapy water seemed to be "100 per cent effective" against rabies.

Dr Durinder Bakhshi, Birmingham's environmental officer, was speaking after a verdict of misadventure was recorded on Indeppal Hayre, aged eight, from Handsworth, who caught rabies from a dog bite in India.

Nurses seek right to wear trousers

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Women nurses want the option to wear trousers at work in order to save them from back pain and protect their modesty.

Delegates at the Royal College of Nursing congress in Glasgow yesterday gave overwhelming support to a resolution calling for a trouser-style suit to become an optional part of nurses' dress "to replace the present archaic, inappropriate and restrictive uniform".

Mr Peter O'Malley, of the Society of Occupational Health Nursing, said that constraints put on nurses by the national uniform when lifting patients had been identified as a major contributory factor in back pain.

"Each year 40,000 nurses are absent for one day or more because of back pain and more than 764,000 days are lost at a cost to the National Health Service of £15 million," Mr O'Malley said. About 4,000 nurses left the NHS each year as a result of back pain.

Research in 1985 had shown that the national uniform, a short-sleeved blue and white check dress with a tight skirt, restricted hip flection by 26 per cent, leading to the adoption of potentially hazardous positions.

Trousers had been successfully introduced in America and in some pilot projects in Britain. They offered minimum restrictions.

Miss Alice Walsh, a student nurse aged 22, said: "I'm tired of constantly having to guard my dignity when lifting and kneeling on male wards."

Nurses also called yesterday for a charter giving nurses the right to complain without fear of recrimination. Some nurses claim they were victimized after expressing concern over the condition of patient care and health service cuts in their hospitals. Others feared for their jobs in a climate of reorganization.

Nurses said there was no effective machinery to handle complaints. They did not know who to turn to even in instances on their own ward.

Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the college of nursing, said the climate had changed considerably since the introduction of general management and growing economic restraint.

"There is no doubt that under the present economic and political climate it is getting increasingly difficult for nurses to speak out."

Tube may be extended as ticket sales boom

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The London Underground is examining options, potentially costing hundreds of millions of pounds, for extending its network and improving stations.

These could include extensions to the Jubilee, Metropolitan, Bakerloo and East London lines, with new stations at Lewisham, Peckham and Camberwell, and improvements to stations at Farringdon, The Angel, Victoria, Liverpool Street and King's Cross.

London Underground emphasized that the examination of these projects was at an early stage. However, it is understood that draft proposals will be sent before long to Dr Tony Ridley, chairman of London Underground, and Mr David Mitchell, Minister of State for Public Transport.

London Underground said: "We are in the unusual position of having to cope with the problems brought about by the success of Travelcards, station modernization and more efficient services."

It had increased passenger loads by nearly 50 percent in three years and was carrying a record 762 million passengers a year.

● Hidden video cameras are to be used on London buses in new efforts to catch attackers and vandals.

The pilot scheme was launched yesterday by London Buses Limited, which called for back-up from the courts with tougher penalties for such offences.

Last year there were 1,109 reported assaults on bus crews, a 10 per cent drop on the 1985 figure of 1,358. There were 39 successful prosecutions against attackers.

Armed thug takes secret to prison

Phillip Callaghan, an unemployed labourer, was jailed for eight years yesterday, taking with him the secret of a firearms incident in Mayfair 10 months ago.

The incident led to the disappearance of Mr Jonathan Denby, a City solicitor who was once a private secretary to Mr Enoch Powell, Ulster Unionist MP for South Down.

Mr Denby, who was reported to have been desperate for £500,000 after judgements against him in a bribery case and the dissolution of his practice, is rumoured to have become involved in an operation to supply arms to "loyalist" extremists in Northern Ireland.

Mr Denby, in the company of Callaghan and another gunman, had been "tailing" a former business client.

But in the trial which ended at the Central Criminal Court yesterday Callaghan chose to say nothing.

The court was told that Callaghan's fingerprints had been found on a record cover in Mr Denby's house in Islington, north London.

Callaghan, aged 29, of Esk House, British Street, Bow, east London, was sentenced to eight years on each of three charges of threatening to kill, robbery and possessing a firearm. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Callaghan angrily left the dock and was taken down to the cells after the first guilty verdict was given.

He missed the reading of his previous convictions, in which it was revealed he had served three years for possession of sawn-off shotguns. Judge Gerber described him as "a hired thug waiting to ambush somebody."

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PARLIAMENT

Dispute over C of E bishops

The controversy over the *appointment of a successor to* Dr Hugh Montefiore as Bishop of Birmingham spilled over into the Commons during Prime Minister's questions.

Mr Andrew Hunter (Basingstoke, C) asked Mrs Thatcher to comment on the process whereby Church of England bishops were appointed, on her role in the process and on the criteria that influenced her judgement.

Mrs Thatcher: Before my time, and by agreement with leaders of the Opposition and the other main parties, a procedure was set up. It has been honoured scrupulously since 1979 as I am sure it was honoured before *then.*

[Downing Street had announced the appointment of the Bishop of Kensington, the Right Rev Mark Santer, rather than that of the Bishop of Stepney, the Right Rev James Thompson, who was expected by some to be appointed.]

MPs returned to the subject when they questioned the Leader of the House about business when they return from the Easter recess on Wednesday April 22.

Mr Neil Kinnock said that the House would want a much fuller explanation of the criteria the Prime Minister used in the *appointment of the bishop.*

Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party, said that the Prime Minister had prayed in aid the fact that the arrangements for appointments had been made with the leaders of Opposition parties. Those leaders, he said, were not satisfied with the way those arrangements were working out.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab) suggested that there should be what one might call a balanced ticket — a good Christian to go along with every Tory appointment.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, said that this was one of the more thoughtful contributions which had been made all the afternoon.

Mr Harry Greenway (Ealing North, C) said that he would want to support the appointment of people such as the Bishop of Kensington who put theology and pastoral care before politics.

Mr Peter Bruinvels (Leicester East, C) said that the Crown Appointments Commission drew up a list of two names, which were presented to the Prime Minister who chose one. "We would like a debate so we can widen the candidates coming forward to be considered as bishops."



Mr Jerry Wiggin (left) and Mr Paddy Ashdown watch Sir George Younger cut the tape.

Orders 'will sustain the helicopter industry'

The package of orders he had announced for helicopters would sustain a British industry capable of meeting the demanding requirements of the Services for helicopters into the 1990s and beyond, **Mr George Younger,** Secretary of State for Defence, said.

He said that a key task was to support the Army in Germany, for which, in addition to the Lynx of the Army Air Corps, Chinook and Puma helicopters were currently assigned. There was also a wide range of other worldwide deployments.

Mr Younger said in his statement: Until 1985, it was envisaged that both RAF Puma and Wessex support helicopters would be replaced one-for-one by helicopters of a similar size. This approach, however, came increasingly into question as a result of trials conducted by 6 Airmobile Brigade that suggested a requirement for an increased number of larger helicopters. A comprehensive review of the requirement for support helicopters in all roles well into the next century was therefore set in hand.

This work showed the need for additional large helicopters *in the central region, capable of* lifting a platoon, that is about thirty men and their equipment, or a substantial logistic load. These large helicopeters, together with some Lynx battlefield helicopters, would enable the Army to provide an airmobile capability and thereby *enhance our defence contribution* in Germany.

The choice for the large helicopter lies between additional Chinook, which are already in service in Germany, or the introduction of a utility version of the Anglo-Italian EH101 helicopter, which is due to enter service in the naval version in the early 1990s.

The Government has decided that the right choice is to introduce the utility EH101 to meet this requirement. This choice will build on the investment we have already made in the naval version.

We have at the same time reviewed the case for continued British participation in the NH90 collaborative helicopter project beyond the study phase.

NH90 is a smaller helicopter than EH101 and will be available later. With the decision we have now reached on the future composition of our support *helicopter force, we no longer* have any early requirement for a helicopter in the NH90 class, nor is their money to fund both participation in the NH90 definition and development programme — which is due to begin soon — and an early purchase of other helicopters. We are therefore informing our partners that we do not intend to proceed to the next stage of the NH90 project.

In reaching a decision on the choice between alternative support helicopters and particuarly on the timing of orders, I have had much in mind the workload at Westland Helicopters until work builds up on the naval version of the EH101.

Subject to satisfactory resolution of the contractual and other issues with the companies concerned and our Italian partners, we intend to place an order for an initial batch of 25 utility EH101 for delivery in the early 1990s. *I also intend* — subject to satisfactory contractual negotiations — to order a further 16 Lynx helicopters for the support of airmobile operations.

The cost of these orders — which have a total value well in excess of £300 million — will be contained within the overall public expenditure planning totals.

Decision a blow to Services, says Labour

WESTLAND

Mr Younger's statement on Service helicopters would come as a blow to Britain's armed forces and more so to the helicopter business of Westland and those who worked there, **Mr Denzil Davies,** chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, said.

The armed forces had fewer helicopters than 10 years ago and the Americans, and, more important, the Russians, were building up.

This order would not make up for the deficiency, especially for helicopters on the battle front, would not safeguard the future of the industry and would not preserve jobs.

At least 2,000 jobs in Westland would be lost, apart from indirect jobs, and one factory was likely to close.

He asked when Westland would receive a bankable contract under these arrangements.

He asked if the £300 million mentioned would come out of the existing defence budget totals and, if that was the case, where were the cuts going to be found.

Mr Younger said that he was very surprised at Mr Davies's response. If this announcement would be a blow to the company, would not safeguard the industry and would be a disaster, then he could not imagine what an announcement not to order helicopters would have meant.

It was a large order and would be extremely helpful to the company, which was issuing a statement welcoming these orders.

He hoped that the contract would be concluded after appropriate negotiations had taken place and that might be some time because it always took some time to do that.

The cost of these orders would come from within the defence budget except that for the 16 Lynx helicopters there would be an addition to the budget. He could not tell how much would fall this year, but not very much.

Mr Jerry Wiggin (Weston-super-Mare, C) said that, having pressed so hard for so long for the orders, he welcomed them, but it was outrageous that at the same time Westland should announce the closure of the factory at Weston-super-Mare.

Was the Secretary of State satisfied that in these circumstances there would be sufficient Ministry of Defence facilities so that the Westland helicopters would have a satisfactory spare-part and customer-support operation.

Mr Younger said that he appreciated the extremely sad effect the news would have on the people of Weston-super-Mare. It was an unhappy situation. Restructuring would safeguard Westland's ability to service and support the helicopters in service with the armed forces.

The orders would enable the company as a whole to look to *future restructure to produce a* thoroughly sound and effective company in the light of their large order book now.

The difficulties which would undoubtedly follow in some parts of the company would be very much in the minds of the Government and if it could help it would.

Mr Paddy Ashdown (Yeovil, L) said the closure would be bitter news for the Westland workforce who would have to pay with their jobs for the mismanagement of the sad a sorry affair.

Sikorsky had absolutely nothing to with it. Had the advice of Mr Heseltine been followed, the company would have been in an immeasurably worse situation than it was today.

The British Army had asked for *more helicopters than had* been ordered so that they could fulfil their tactical role in Europe. The Government's short-term vision would damage the country's long-term perception.

Mr Younger said that he could not agree. While it must be unhappy news for those who might lose their jobs, it would be good news for the company and those working for it, as providing a firm base to plan for the *future.*

There would be a large number of Mr Ashdown's constituents whose jobs would be secured as a result of the announcement.

It was right to say that who owned Westland had nothing to do with the NH90 decision.

Careful studies indicated that more helicopters of this particular size were not required.

It did not make sense to spend the limited defence funds on a project when the Government did not intend to order any more of the product.

Sir Antony Buck (Colchester North, C) said the announcement showed the Government's conviction in the future of the helicopter industry in this country. Did it have export potential?

Mr Younger said that it was the type of order the company had been calling for in order to be able to set about its restructing programme.

COMMENTARY



Geoffrey Smith

The Alliance has to prepare for the general election in a different way from the other parties. Both the Conservatives and Labour publish a manifesto to show what they would do if they win a majority and have the power to put all their policies into practice.

The Alliance goes through the same motions. Earlier this week it produced its detailed proposals for health and education. Yesterday Mr Alan Beith, *who is coordinating the* production of its manifesto, or programme for government as it is optimistically termed, appeared at the Alliance planning group meeting to discuss what it should contain.

But nearly everybody knows that this is largely a charade. The Alliance's chances of forming a government on its own are remote. *It will have no* opportunity of putting all its ideas into practice. The realistic prospect that it does have, however, is of *holding the* balance of power in a hung Parliament.

Alliance faces a dilemma

So the Alliance preparations that may really matter are for its bargaining terms if it is in a position to negotiate. Here it faces a dilemma. It will offer hostages to criticism during the campaign, and may restrict its freedom of manoeuvre after the election, if it produces a precise list of terms that would have to be satisfied.

The simple phrase "a hung Parliament" covers a range of *different outcomes.* The bargaining position of the Alliance would vary according to how many seats it had with *which to hold the balance,* and according to whether the Conservatives or Labour had most seats.

Yet the Alliance would run risks externally and internally if it did nothing to prepare the ground for the possibility of *such negotiations. The* electorate might feel that whereas the other parties were offering a specific programme, the *Alliance was simply asking to* be given a free hand in the only circumstances where it would have a reasonable chance of *tasting power.*

The other danger is that many Liberals and Social Democrats might themselves *not be willing to go along with* any deal that their leaders might be able to put together. The Liberal wrath when Mr Jeremy Thorpe went to talk to Mr Heath in Downing Street immediately after the February 1974 election should be a warning of what could happen.

So the Alliance joint strategy committee decided to let it be known after their meeting on Tuesday that they were thinking about these matters. The Liberals have given the task of keeping in touch with party opinion to their president, president-elect, chairman and secretary-general. The Social Democrats will decide before the end of the month whether to set up a similar procedure.

Spending on social services

Much would obviously depend on how many MPs the Alliance had in a hung Parliament. The more of them there were, the less important would other forms of consultation be.

But there are a few highly sensitive points on which the leaders would presumably want to know, by means of a very low-key, informal process *of testing opinion, just how far* they could go without provoking an explosion.

It has been made clear enough that in any deal with the Conservatives the Alliance would want more to be done to create jobs and more expenditure on the social services. In bargaining with Labour changes would be required in the party's non-nuclear defence policy. A minimum term would be regarded as necessary for an agreement with either party.

But those are really the easy questions. Would the Alliance be prepared to treat with Mrs Thatcher? How far would it insist upon going towards its goal of proportional representation? If it entered a coalition, would it be enough to have just the two Davids in the Cabinet?

It is on such issues as these that a successful negotiation might hang, and they are just the ones on which party feeling could be misjudged in what would probably be a frenetic atmosphere.

Shares statement refused by Biffen

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab), during questions on forthcoming business, asked for a statement about the purchase of British Gas shares. *He said that MPs engaged in multiple* applications for British Telecom shares were in the same business in British Gas shares.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, said that the matter was the subject of investigation by auditors. The investigations were continuing and it would be wiser to wait until they were finished.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) asked if Mr Biffen would reconsider what he had to say to Mr Hamilton after he had read the *Daily Mirror* tomorrow. According to all reports, the *newspaper* had done a trawl of British Gas applications and there were going to be further revelations of multiple applications from Tory MPs.

Mr Biffen: He is inviting me to set aside the professional work of Touche Ross [the accountants examining British Gas applications] for the journalistic achievements of the *Daily Mirror.* If he were on the Front Bench and had to take responsibility, he would decide that Touche Ross was the safer haven.

Prescriptions pledge

Prescription charges would be much reduced once a Labour government regained office, and they would be phased out altogether over the lifetime of one Parliament, **Mr Frank Dobson,** chief Opposition spokesman on health, said during a debate late on Wednesday in the Commons.

He was moving a motion to annul the National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) Amendment Regulations 1987.

Mr Tony Newton, Minister for Health, said that three-quarters of the people paid nothing for prescriptions; only those who could afford it were asked to contribute. That raised £150 million a year, which made a useful contribution to health service expenditure.

The Labour Party's proposed abolition of all prescription charges and putting the cost on to income tax would mean that pensioners, at present paying nothing for their prescriptions, would be asked to pay through income tax. The prayer was rejected by 142 votes to 67 — Government majority, 75.

Tory record 'is good'

The Government's record on looking after the elderly had *been second to none,* the Prime Minister said during question time.

Mr David Marshall (Glasgow, Shettleston, Lab) had *asked when the Government* would start to treat pensioners as decent, dignified human beings and when Mrs Thatcher would stop the nonsense of saying that pensioners were better off, when it was just not true.

Mrs Thatcher replied that that if Opposition proposals were followed, the working population would have to pay much more through national insurance.

Cost puzzle on longbows

Asked in a written question about the number of cross*bows and longbows now in* use by the armed forces and their cost, **Lord Trefgarne,** Minister of State for Defence Procurement, said that neither of these weapons were part of the present armoury.

"The longbow ceased to be standard equipment for the armed forces during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and our information on costs is therefore a little out of date.

"Information available to us suggests a price of 6s 8d (33p) for a first class English-made bow of best foreign yew at 1566 economic conditions."

Study scheme for 'Restart' jobless

Replying to a written question by **Lord Simon of Glaisdale** (Ind) about the number of men and women interviewed on the Restart Programme who had difficulty reading and/or writing English, **Lord Young of Graffham,** Secretary of State for Employment, said that he had had asked the Manpower Services Commission to investigate the extent of the problems of literacy and numeracy among the long-term unemployed.

The commission's conclusion was that about 25 per cent in this category had such difficulties that could affect their opportunities of securing employment. These serious problems were being tackled through the adult training programmes and by the work of local education authorities. However, he had asked the commission to consider whether it could develop even more effective measures to improve these essential, basic skills.

Dead 'should be buried in peace'

N IRELAND

The dead in Northern Ireland *should be buried in peace and* dignity and without paramilitary displays, **Mr Tom King,** Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said during question time in the Commons.

He was replying to **Mr Dennis Canavan** (Falkirk West, Lab), who asked how the heavy and provocative police presence at the recent funeral ceremonies could be justified.

Whatever organization it was believed they were members of *during their lifetime,* would it not be in the best interests of all concerned to let people bury thier dead in peace?

Mr King: It is a matter that has given over the years enormous offence to see displays of deliberately provocative demonstrations.

I would draw his memory to the events in Londonderry some two weeks ago when, contrary to the wishes of the family itself and in flagrant breach of the standards and laws of the Church, two gunmen appeared with guns out of the church and fired a volley over the coffin.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary are faced with a very difficult dilemma in that they have the responsibility to uphold the law.

Earlier, Mr King told MPs that he had met the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Lenihan, on Monday. They had an informal discussion on a wide range of matters.

"In addition, yesterday, under the auspices of the inter-Parliamentary Union, I had a valuable discussion with a distinguished delgation of members of the Dail."

Sir John Farr (Harborough, C) asked if had had any indication from the new Government of the Irish Republic of the way it intended to implement the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mr King said that he had received very full assurances (on the agreement).

Mr Ian Gow (Eastbourne, C) asked if, during his recent meetings, he had expressed satisfaction at the extent to which the Anglo-Irish agreement had been able to bring about peace, stability and reconciliation in the province.

If it should become clear to him that the agreement could *not achieve those objectives,* would he propose some change?

Mr King said that he had never maintained that the agreement could suddenly transform the *attitudes and prejudices that* went back over centuries.

Mr Peter Bruinvels (Leicester East, C) asked about what he called the deeply offensive misuse of the Irish tricolour, especially at IRA funerals.

Mr King replied that it was particularly the paramilitary displays that gave the greatest offence.

Sheep for anthrax island

A flock of sheep is to be herded on *Gruinard Island, off* the west coast of Scotland, this summer by a local farmer, to demonstrate that the island, deliberately infected with anthrax during the Second World War, is now safe for occupation.

Mr Archie Hamilton, Under-Secretary of Defence for Pro*curement, said in a written reply* that the independent advisory group which had been reviewing the evidence on the efficacy of the decontamination treatment of Gruinard had reported that it had worked well.

Parliament after Easter

The main business in the House of Commons when MPs return from their Easter recess on April 22 will be:

April 22: Finance Bill, second reading.

April 23: Debate on agriculture and on farm price proposals.

April 24: Private members' Bills. Protection of Animals (Penalties) Bill, Motor Cycle Noise Bill, Crown Proceedings (Armed Forces) Bill, and Access to Personal Files Bill, report stages.

The House of Lords does not resume until April 27.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Easter adjournment debates.

Japan taunts for Thatcher

PRIME MINISTER

Mrs Thatcher was taunted during question time by the Leader *of the Opposition over what* he took to be the failure of Mr Michael Howard's mission to Japan. Conservative backbenchers at the same time heckled Mr Kinnock on the subject of his recent visit to the United States, and the Prime Minister rubbed in the point.

Mr Kinnock recalled that two weeks ago she had said she saw the Cable and Wireless issue as a test case on the openness of the Japanese market. "In the wake *of her minister's fruitless visit to* Tokyo, does she think the Japanese passed or failed the test?"

Mrs Thatcher said that Cable and Wireless were still in discussion with the Japanese Government. Mr Howard, an Under-Secretary of State for Industry, had not yet completed his visit to the Far East.

Mr Kinnock said amid laughter: That does not make the visit any less fruitless.

Would the Prime Minister say what she would do to protect the interests of Britain with the Japanese? Would she fully operate the Financial Services Act *powers or powers under the* British Telecommunications Act? Most important, how would she turn round the trade deficit with Japan which had *risen fourfold since she became* Prime Minister?

To renewed laughter from the Conservative benches, the Prime Minister retorted: "He is an expert in fruitless visits."

She said that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, had made clear Britain's willingness, if necessary, to use reciprocity powers under the *Financial Services Act and an* order was laid for that purpose a week or so ago.

Dr David Owen, leader of the *SDP, said: The European* Community is the right mechanism for dealing with unfair trading practices by the Japanese Government, but it would help the Community and our other partners to take firm action if the British Government would help the European Commmunity science and technology initiative to build up our industry so that it can compete with the Japanese.

Mrs Thatcher: We have proposed a framework agreement for 3.2 million ecu over five years. The amount of the European research and development programme is only 2 per cent of the total. Money has been too easily given for research and development without looking at the results. We have spent a great deal on research and development without getting out the industrial results. It is to that aspect that we must give our attention. I do not think the first and second parts of his question go together.

Northern Ireland Bill debate

Anti-terror law may get annual check

The following report of the Commons debate on the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill appeared in later editions of this newspaper yesterday.

The Government is considering an independent annual review of the working of its emergency legislation in Northern Ireland, *Mr Nicholas Scott,* Minister of State for Northern Ireland, told the Commons. He was moving the third reading of the Bill.

He said that the proposal *under consideration was to find* an independent person of standing to conduct a review and prepare a report for Parliament.

He said that there would also be a code of practice in relation to the powers available to the security forces.

That would contribute to a greater understanding between them and the public and it would be in the interests of the public to have a clear statement of the extent of the powers of the *security forces and how* they should be operated.

Mr Peter Archer, chief Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, welcomed both suggestions.

Earlier, a new clause to the Bill, designed to eliminate delays between an accused person's first remand for a scheduled offence and the trial, was carried on report stage by 194 *votes to 28 — Government* majority, 166.

Mr Scott said that it was only an enabling power and it was likely to be some time before time limits were actually introduced.

The Government had decided to include the power at this stage because another opportunity might not arise for five years when the legislation would again be considered.

The new clause would enable the Secretary of State to set a limit on the period a person might be remanded before trial, and a breach would result in the accused's being released on bail.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP) said that it was disappointing that the new clause gave only enabling powers rather than introducing the con*cept of time limits immediately.*

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) said that there had been instances of people being on remand for three years before trial, which was the equivalent of a six-year prison sentence. It would have been better to have introduced a time limit in the Bill.

Mr Archer said that the Opposition would be pressing the *minister* to use some of the powers that were in the new clause, but it was to be welcomed as representing some advance in Government thinking.

Mr Scott said that it was much too early to give any precise indication of what time limits might eventually be set.

The latest figures available showed that the average waiting time for scheduled cases between remand and committal was 33 *weeks and the* average time between committal and trial was 27 weeks.

"We are talking about 60 weeks between remand and the case coming to trial. The present situation is, to a considerable degree, unsatisfactory."

As a result of the pressure *being kept up to reduce the* delay, the next 12 months would show a big reduction of that figure. If they were to set firm times for the various stages, they would find themselves overtaken by the improvements that were likely to take place.

"We do not want people who are eventually found not guilty by the courts to be detained for lengthy periods on remand."

It would be right in due course to introduce these regulations.

Mr Archer moved a new clause setting out when it would not be reasonable for members of the security forces in Northern Ireland to use lethal force.

It stated that lethal force would not be reasonable unless the person using it apprehended immediate death or serious injury to himself or another person and the use of that force was necessary to prevent the death or injury.

"We do not know what instructions are made to members of the armed forces. The Ministry of Defence declines to publish the instructions of the famous yellow card."

Mr Nicholas Scott said that *members of the security forces* exercising emergency powers should be bound by the normal rule of law on the use of force. The new clause would apply one rule of law to use of emergency powers and another to ordinary powers.

The new clause was rejected by 185 votes to 82 — Government majority, 103.

Mr Archer moved a new clause removing the power of the Secretary of State to intern people without trial.

The provision had not been used since 1976, he said, and no government would attempt to justify its use. It was not even in force. At issue was the power of the Secretary of State to bring it into force.

It was a distortion of the normal legal system and should be repealed.

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said the question was whether the power should remain on the statute *book so that it could* be used in particular circumstances.

"We have a power but there is no proposal to introduce it. Detention is phased out in fact but kept available in law. That is the reality of the situation."

The new clause was rejected by 168 votes to 80 — Government majority, 88.

'Demoralized' prosecution lawyers to get pay bonus

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Pay bonuses are to be given to lawyers working in the Crown Prosecution Service and other government departments in London in an attempt to remedy the problem of staff shortages, Sir Thomas Hetherington, the Director of Public Prosecutions, said yesterday.

A restructuring of the way the service is organized is also underway, involving the creation of four posts of regional field manager to "improve morale on the ground", he said.

"Instead of there just being a few of us at headquarters, defining policy and putting out edicts, there will be a board of management, to meet regularly. It will have before it input from the local areas about their problems and give greater local involvement in policy decisions."

The new strategy for the prosecution service and bonus payments from £1,000 to £2,000 for its 200 London lawyers and others in government departments come at a time when morale is said to be low and large numbers are thinking of leaving.

A survey by the prosecution lawyers' union, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, this week claimed that three-quarters of junior and middle-rank prosecutors felt morale was low; had no confidence in senior management and, in 60 per cent of cases, were considering other jobs.

But yesterday, in a rare interview on the first anniversary of the start of the Crown Prosecution Service in April 1986, Sir Thomas dismissed the survey as "a lot of rubbish" which could have a harmful effect on staff and recruitment.

He said: "If you ask anyone if they are underpaid and overworked, you'll get the same response."

He contested the claim that morale was generally low, but said there were some prosecutors who felt hard done by and efforts were being made to sort out their grievances, including certain pay disparities. About £500,000 had been set aside to try to solve the problems.

However, the service is still short of lawyers in some areas; chiefly London, but also in the West Midlands and on Merseyside. In inner London only 75 of the 152 posts for lawyers have been filled: and in outer London and Surrey, only 92 out of 168.

Apart from the cost of living in the capital, London had the biggest problems because it had to recruit the largest number of lawyers of any area to get the service underway.

But there is also a shortage of staff throughout the government legal service. Lawyers are leaving the Civil Service twice as fast as six years ago, according to this week's edition of the *Lawyer* magazine.

In 1981 the Civil Service was able to fill 95 per cent of its legal vacancies; now only 45 per cent are being filled, it says.

The new payments, from April 1, are of £1,000 for crown prosecutors; £1,500 for senior crown prosecutors and £2,000 for assistant branch crown prosecutors.

The payments come on top of existing scales of £11,130 to £15,900 for crown prosecutors, £14,318 to £19,465 for senior crown prosecutors and £18,020 to £24,302 for assistant branch crown prosecutors. All ranks receive an additional £1,465 in London weighting.

Sir Thomas, who retires on September 30, said that problems of Saturday working, which almost led to a strike, and the secondment of lawyers from the regions, had largely been resolved.

A deal had been agreed for payments of £70 a session for Saturday working, and no one who did not want to work in London was being made to move.

The aim was to "improve efficiency and effectiveness and to get over to the public that the CPS is not just bad news . . . that we have something to contribute to the criminal justice system".



Mr Richard Dover and his wife Gwyneth jump for joy yesterday after winning £1,000 as the couple with the healthiest lifestyle.

Mrs Dover, aged 32, saved her husband's life by stopping him eating his favourite meal of fish and chips and changing his diet to vegetarian and wholemeal foods.

Mr Dover, aged 53, had a heart condition caused by years of fatty foods. He had three heart attacks before he was 35 and had a triple bypass operation in 1978.

Mr Dover said of his changed diet: "Within a year I was feeling better. I am in perfect health now. Gwyneth saved my life."

The couple are converting their home in Milton Lane, Lothersdale, North Yorkshire, into a health food guest house.

Yesterday's award was presented by *Here's Health* magazine.

● Many meals in Britain's restaurants should carry health warnings, according to an Egon Ronay guide to healthy eating out, published yesterday.

(Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

Telephone scramble for degree courses

By Sarah Thompson
Education Reporter

Students face "a pantomime and a lottery" in the summer scramble for university and polytechnic places thatcomes after the announcement of A level results, according to the author of an annual guide to degree course offers published yesterday.

The "clearing house" system, whereby students who have been rejected by their first-choice colleges or universities are matched with vacancies elsewhere, had collapsed, Mr Brian Heap said.

Institutions became increasingly competitive in grabbing the better candidates by telephone and were being rather naughty, Mr Heap said.

"Instead of picking the next candidate on the list to fill a vacancy they are jumping the gun by taking applications by telephone."

From the students' point of view, the system means an increasingly desperate situation in which 100,000 hopeful applicants call round the 80 universities and polytechnics looking for a place.

One of Mr Heap's pupils at Hutton Grammar School in Preston, Lancashire, ran up a telephone bill of £120 in a week.

Only Exeter University does the "decent thing" by refusing to take telephone applications for a fortnight, Mr Heap said.

Last year, Trent Polytechnic indicated that there were vacancies in a subject that was in reality full, while Oxford Polytechnic did not publish any of its vacancies.

Degree Course Offers (Careers Consultants, 12/14 Richmond Rise, Richmond upon Thames; £9.95, post and packing £1.10).

Unionists warned over street protests

By Richard Ford

As "loyalists" prepare for a day of street protests tomorrow, the Royal Ulster Constabulary issued a warning yesterday that the policing of such events diverts resources from the battle against terrorism.

Sir John Hermon, Chief Constable, says the community must consider the financial and human cost of the right to demonstrate in a province where there were 1,731 loyalist and 219 republican parades last year.

His remarks are certain to anger Unionist politicians who will lead protests tomorrow against new public order legislation giving greater powers to the police to control demonstrations and which Unionists allege have been introduced as the behest of the government in Dublin.

In his annual report, Sir John says the public order situation was dominated by loyalist frustration and opposition to the Anglo-Irish agreement, requiring more police to maintain stability.

He said his officers had been shot at by terrorists and faced "500 cowardly and despicable" incidents of intimidation from extreme loyalists, which forced 120 police families from their homes.

Turning to terrorism, Sir John said detailed planning and consultation had occurred between the RUC and Garda in an effort to improve cross-border security.

His report shows an increase in terrorist activity with deaths rising from 54 in 1985 to 61 last year, shootings from 155 to 392, and bombings from 251 to 275.

But there was also an increase in people charged with terrorist crimes, with figures rising from 522 to 655.

Although the figures show that crime, including terrorist crime, rose by 6 per cent from 64,584 to 68,255, the detection rate of 37 per cent was the highest since 1970.

In west Belfast, there was an improvement in the number of offences cleared up, from 1,457 to 2,629.

TV station looks to satellite

By Jonathan Miller
Media Correspondent

Thames Television is preparing to ask the Independent Broadcasting Authority for permission to launch a two-channel direct broadcasting by satellite service next year.

It also wants to increase its investment in a venture in Luxembourg that will provide the satellite.

Thames intends to offer one channel for children's programmes and another, funded by advertising, for general entertainment.

They would be broadcast on the 16-channel Astra satellite system in which Thames already holds a 5 per cent stake.

The English-language programming on Astra is expected to include a subscription film channel, offered by the Premiere consortium. That group is owned jointly by British Telecom, Mr Robert Maxwell, Mr Rupert Murdoch and a subsidiary of the Coca-Cola company.

It is thought that Thames will increase its stake in Astra to 10 per cent, for a total investment of about £7.5 million.

The decision of British Telecom to form a joint venture with Astra to market channels on the satellite is said to have reaffirmed Thames's confidence in the project.

The move into direct broadcast programme services is a further demonstration of the independent strategy Thames is pursuing.

Thames's entertainment channel will challenge the Super Channel general entertainment service, launched in January by the other ITV companies in partnership with Virgin Group.

At the same time, Thames's backing of the Astra venture is a challenge to the British Satellite Broadcasting consortium, which intends to launch a three-channel satellite in 1989.

Benefits fraud cost £250,000

Twenty eight people who admitted their part in one of Britain's biggest social security swindles received sentences ranging from community service orders to 30 months' jail yesterday.

Mr Richard Benson, for the prosecution, told Nottingham Crown Court that more than £250,000 was paid out to bogus claimants before the offences were uncovered.

The accused, 17 people from Derby, 10 from Nottingham and one from Leicester, aged between 20 and 52, were sentenced for 45 admitted offences of fraud and deception.

Mr Benson said most of the claims were made by people using fictitious identities. Landlords received payment for use of their addresses as "safe houses", where Department of Health and Social Security payments could be sent to bogus claimants.

The majority of the 22 men and six women defendants were of Irish origin. Many bought identities from people returning to the Republic of Ireland while others wrote to Ireland for documents to back up their fictitious claims.

Judge Hopkin said: "This is not the usual case where a person entitled to benefit gets more than they are entitled. This was a carefully calculated, worked out fraud."

CND plea on telephone tap

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is going to the Court of Appeal today with fresh evidence to try to overturn a High Court ruling that Government approval for a telephone tap on a CND officer was not unlawful.

CND has a new affidavit from Miss Cathy Massiter, a former MI5 intelligence officer in charge of surveillance against the group.

Beef bargains around despite top cut prices

Falling beef prices at cattle markets over the last few months have discouraged farmers without bringing any noticeable benefit to shoppers.

Top side and silverside at around £2.16 a pound, boneless sirloin at £2.84 and rump steak at up to £3 a pound are strictly for special occasions, though there are nearly always special offers in supermarkets.

This week's offers include Presto frying steak at £1.99 a pound, Sainsbury's braising steak at £1.48 and Tesco boneless brisket at £1.39.

New Zealand lamb has a big price advantage over English at this time of year. Whole leg and loin chops at around £1.50 a pound and shoulder 84p (down to 59p in Tesco) are attractive buys.

Pork is as usual good value at around £1.05 for whole leg and £1.22 for boneless shoulders.

Large turkeys are as little as 49p a pound but as always you pay for what you get and cannot expect them to taste as good as fresh birds. Presto also has grade A turkeys between 5 and 6lbs at £3.64 each.

Fruit from the southern hemisphere, including apples, plums and grapes, are becoming steadily more plentiful and are generally of excellent quality. Citrus fruit are also a reliable standby. Tesco has packs of five Jaffa oranges for 49p and grapefruit at 16p.

Presto has large oranges and Cyprus grapefruit at 18p each, but you are likely to find an equally good choice at your local greengrocer. There are also lots of good bananas and the best bargains are probably to be found in the street markets.

Supplies of homegrown winter vegetables are gradually coming to an end and have not been helped by the recent wet weather.

But avocados (down from 35p to 29p each in Marks & Spencer) are an excellent buy, and the first new season Dutch beef tomatoes are appearing at around £1 a pound.

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WORLD SUMMARY

Pope sees hope in material progress

Buenos Aires – The Pope ended a three-day tour of the Argentine provinces yesterday with the hope that economic progress will lead to a more profound human and Christian development (Eduardo Cué writes).

The Pope was speaking at a Mass in Corrientes, in north-east Argentina near Paraguay, before flying to Paraná and returning to Buenos Aires for the final weekend of his 13-day Latin American trip. He said he hoped the development of hydro-electric power in the area "would be accompanied by a constant internal improvement that will lead to authentic human and Christian progress". Last night the Pope met representatives of the Jewish community.

Sold girl order

Hackensack, New Jersey (AP) – A girl, aged four, whose mother was killed in a car crash in 1984 and whose father allegedly sold her for $100,000 (£62,500) is to be placed in the temporary custody of her stepmother, an appeals court ruled on Wednesday.

The child's uncle, Mr Gary Stern, of Sunrise, Florida, who had temporary custody of Rachel Rauser and is keeping her in defiance of a judge's order, could face criminal charges if the girl is not handed to her stepmother.

After the decision, Mr Stern made public a psychological report saying that Rachel was emotionally disturbed from the incident and did not want to return to her stepmother.

US wants deserter

Canberra (AFP) – The US has re-applied for the extradition from Australia of a former US Marine who deserted while in Vietnam, an embassy spokesman said yesterday.

He said that the US had already made a fresh request for the extradition of a Mr Beane, who was released yesterday by the Australian High Court. A spokeswoman for Mr Kim Beazley, the Defence Minister, said the request was being reviewed.

The High Court ruled yesterday that the warrant on which Mr Beane was arrested last December, issued under legislation covering co-operation with visiting forces, was invalid because he had deserted in Vietnam and not Australia.

Beach town for sale

Dillon Beach, California (AP) – Looking for a special gift for the person who has everything? A cool $4.9 million (£3.06 million) can buy this 100-year-old town, complete with general store and 2,000 ft of beachfront property.

Dillon Beach, with a population of 300, is for sale and three cabins and a trailer park are part of the package. But despite its location on the waterfront about 40 miles north of San Francisco, only a few prospective buyers have expressed interest since it was put up for sale about 16 years ago.

It is a developer's gold mine, said Mr John Duran, a real estate agent, who says he is getting a good response from recent national advertisements and packages he has sent to 20 potential investors.

Lange cleared

Wellington (Reuter) – Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister has been cleared of blame for hitting a pedestrian while driving through Wellington last week.

The Ministry of Transport said that Mr Lange, who holds a motor racing licence, was unable to avoid the pedestrian who suffered head and leg injuries. No action would be taken against either man.

Mr Lange, a former lay preacher who does not drink, said he had been driving to a petrol station to buy razor blades.

Maxwell's TV quest

Madrid – Coinciding with a visit here by Mr Robert Maxwell, the British publisher, Spain's Newspaper Proprietors' Association yesterday expressed its "profound disappointment" over the Socialist Government's limitations on the media's share in a proposed new commercial television channel (Richard Wigg writes).

Mr Maxwell, who is assessing the openings in the field of commercial television, was received by King Juan Carlos and Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister.

Beatle charges fail



New York (Reuter) – The New York State Supreme Court has dismissed six fraud charges against two Thorn-EMI record companies by the Beatles. George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Yoko Ono, right, and two Beatles companies alleged in December 1984 that Capitol Records and EMI Records had failed to pay total royalties over 18 years. Thorn says the court has thrown out six of the nine charges.

Nuclear Easter eggs

Hamburg (AFP) – Children in Hamburg's 189 orphanages will not eat their chocolate Easter eggs this year because they contain too much radioactivity from the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, a state government spokesman said yesterday. The 20,000 eggs were made from milk from the Bavarian region, southern Germany, that was severely hit by fall-out from the Chernobyl nuclear explosion almost a year ago.

The authorities now have to decide whether the eggs will be destroyed or sent back to the manufacturers, who said the withdrawal was regrettable, but should not provoke panic.

Dubcek veterans proclaim faith in Gorbachov

By Mary Dejevsky

Awaiting Mr Mikhail Gorbachov when he arrived in Prague yesterday was a letter signed by four senior members of the Dubcek administration, toppled when Soviet tanks entered Prague in August 1968.

The signatories include Professor Jiri Hajek, Mr Dubcek's Foreign Minister; Ms Ludmila Jankovcova, his Industry Minister; Dr Vladimir Kadlec, his Education Minister; and Dr Jaroslav Sabata, the head of the South Moravian regional party committee.

The text of the letter, handed in at the Soviet Embassy last Saturday, has now reached the West. After welcoming the Soviet leader, it says: "We have been following with great sympathy and interest the new revolutionary developments – the reconstruction of Soviet society – inaugurated under your leadership. This development has revived in us the hope that the time of renewal has come for our society as well."

Describing themselves as people who "for decades worked with dedication for the fulfilment of the ideas of socialism", they expressed appreciation of the Soviet leader's call for "new thinking".

The letter continued: "Mankind needs to be given back its self-reliance, faith in its strength, space to breathe freely and air to breathe – that is, to us, socialist democracy. You point out that there is no need to fear democracy. Whoever is afraid of it is afraid of the people – and there is no need to fear the people, they need to be understood."

The signatories expressed their faith in "reconstruction" – one of the key words of Mr Gorbachov's Soviet reform programme – and pledged to do all they could to involve others in that cause.

In a reference to 1968, they also spoke of the need to restore "the traditional friendship between our two nations which was compromised by the manner in which the Soviet leadership of that period reacted to the process of revival of 1968". They went on: "We are ready to play an active part in the reconstruction of our society ... and would be happy if your visit could help open the way towards such activity. We are convinced that this would result in strengthening trust."

They concluded their letter with the hope that the "hundreds of thousands of people hitherto excluded from public activity" might be included in the reconstruction effort. "People in Czechoslovakia," they said, "want to overcome all the obstacles which hold back the creative forces."

Many of those who participated in the Prague Spring are still alive and could constitute an influential force for change. Their open welcome for Mr Gorbachov represents an implicit challenge to the leadership of President Husak, who has only belatedly supported the Soviet reform programme.

2 dead, 85 hurt in Rio train commuter riot

From Mac Margolis, Rio de Janeiro

A sudden work stoppage by train operators at the crowded central railway station here on Wednesday evening sparked off a bloody clash between thousand of angry stranded passengers and railway security guards that left two people dead and 85 wounded – at least 16 from gunshot wounds. Six of those wounded by gunfire were still being treated in a hospital in Rio de Janeiro yesterday.

Thirty were jailed in the wake of the disturbances that lasted into the early hours yesterday.

Military police and army troops, accompanied by tanks, began patrolling a number of suburban stations after the trouble broke out.

The state's Secretary of Transportation suspended train services for safety inspection and repairs.

The violence began shortly after 6pm on Wednesday, when railway workers voted to strike as a protest against the dilapidated state of coaches and rail facilities.

The sudden announcement during the rush hour left thousands stranded at the station, which is the main departure point for tens of thousands of commuters who live in Rio's populous poor suburbs.

In the ensuing confusion, some of the passengers clamoured for reimbursement for their rail tickets, while others began a protest and advanced on the station headquarters.

Guards armed with revolvers and shotguns then began to fire wildly upon the crowd, provoking a riot that turned the railway station into a battlefield for the next five hours.

The crowd responded by hurling stones at the guards, vandalizing station property, and setting fire to wood and vehicles.

Senhor José Carlos da Silva, aged 26, a baker, was killed when a guard allegedly fired his revolver from close range. Another man, who was not immediately identified, was also shot dead.

It took until past midnight, and five platoons of military shock troops, to restore order to the station.

Although Brazilians are not generally known for violent challenges to authority, this appears to be the latest in a series of scattered incidents that have pitted ordinary citizens against police.

In São Paulo last month, 1,500 squatters flung stones and pieces of wood at police who had come to drive them off city lands.

In Bahia state, in an apparent revolt against the justice system, 18 men accused of violent crimes have died at the hands of lynch mobs since December. Many of the alleged criminals were snatched away from police custody.

'Ivan the Terrible' trial

Demjanjuk queries witness on uniform

From David Bernstein, Jerusalem

Mr John Demjanjuk, accused of being a Nazi war criminal, broke eight weeks of almost total silence in court yesterday when he brushed aside his defence lawyers and asked to question a prosecution witness directly.

Only once before has Mr Demjanjuk spoken out in court. During the third week of the trial, he shouted in Hebrew "You are a liar!" to one of the Treblinka concentration camp survivors who was testifying against him. Mr Demjanjuk is accused of being "Ivan the Terrible", the man responsible for executions at Treblinka.

Yesterday, after the bench had overruled a series of defence counsel questions to the prosecution's witness, Professor Wolfgang Schessler, a historian and expert on the SS Trawniki training camp the accused is alleged to have attended, Mr Demjanjuk raised his hand and asked to question the witness himself.

He then asked Professor Schessler, in firm sonorous Ukrainian, about details of the uniform he was alleged to be wearing in the photograph of what the prosecution claims to be his Trawniki identity card.

The bench intervened, apparently to prevent the accused from incriminating himself, when Professor Schessler tried to suggest that Mr Demjanjuk should tell the court what he knew about the uniform.

After consulting with his lawyers, Mr Demjanjuk sought to dismiss any impression that his interest in details of the uniform might have stemmed from personal knowledge at Trawniki.

"I have no knowledge of my own," he said, noting that everything he knew about the uniform "derives from what I have heard in this court".

Professor Schessler concluded his fourth day on the stand yesterday, during which he vouched for the authenticity of the Trawniki identity card allegedly issued to the accused.

The court, however, once again turned down the prosecution's attempt to have the identity card admitted as evidence, pending the conclusion of forensic tests on the document by both prosecution and defence experts.

The court went into recess for the Passover week and will reconvene on April 21.

● **Heavy water:** Norway has asked Israel for clarifications concerning the use being made of some 21 tons of heavy water supplied to Israel by Norway several years ago.

Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian Prime Minister, is reported to have discussed the matter with Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister, in Rome earlier this week. They were in Rome for meetings of the Socialist International.

The question of the heavy water, which Norway supplied under the terms of its secret agreement signed in 1979, emerged after revelations made by the accused Israeli nuclear traitor, Mr Mordechai Vanunu, the Israeli accused of divulging nuclear secrets.

These resulted in a visit to Israel last month by senior Norwegian officials.



The British surgeon, Dr Pauline Cutting, speaking with one of her Palestinian patients in Beirut's Bourj al-Barajneh camp as he was being evacuated with 40 others yesterday.

Israeli helicopter gunships strike at Palestinian base

From Juan Carlos Gumucio, Beirut

Israeli helicopter gunships yesterday attacked a Palestinian guerrilla base in the hills east of Sidon and reports from the scene said two men were killed. Beirut radios quoted witnesses as saying one of the four Sea Cobra attack helicopters was shot down "and crashed in the sea".

There was no independent confirmation of the helicopter being downed, while the radio of the Israeli Army said all aircraft returned safely to base. The raid was Israel's ninth air strike in Lebanon this year. It targeted a base of the so-called Fatah Uprising faction, led by Colonel Saeed Mousa, near the Ein al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp.

Meanwhile, 45 wounded Palestinians were evacuated from the Bourj al-Barajneh refugee camp yesterday in yet another successful Syrian move to alleviate the suffering of victims of a merciless conflict.

A boy and a young man, who had lost their legs in shelling, were seen smiling timidly as they were taken to ambulances amid the cheers of a crowd of refugees. Others, including four women, were extracted from the ruins of the camp in stretchers, but only after a bulldozer had removed the piles of rubble and garbage from the narrow streets.

The evacuation followed the deployment of about 800 Syrian soldiers in and around the camp to disengage Palestinian guerrillas and forces of the Shia Muslim Amal militia. Not a single shot marred the atmosphere of joy and relief after five months of fierce battles that have spared virtually none of the small houses of Bourj al-Barajneh.

Dr Pauline Cutting, the British surgeon who has resisted the siege with a small team of foreign volunteers working at the camp's Haifa hospital, was hugged and kissed by the evacuees. "At last the siege and the suffering seems to have ended. You can see it on the people's faces, they are very relieved to see the end of this terrible, terrible suffering," she said.

"We had to work very hard and the lack of medicines contributed to the difficulties. Two children died because of the lack of medicines."

● **Young survivors:** At Bourj al-Barajneh, 15-year-old Wissam Salim was pushed in his wheelchair towards an ambulance, escorted by his father (Reuter reports).

"I was getting some water some six weeks ago when a bullet struck me in the chest and came out of my back. Since then I have been paralysed in both legs," Wissam told reporters.

"It is my fate – I will just have to learn to accept it," the youth added, smiling.

Adham Abdallah Nahfawi, aged 14, lost both legs when a shell burst outside his home inside Bourj al-Barajneh two months ago. "I was there with my brothers and sisters. Nobody got hurt but me," he said.

Scores of women and children were allowed to leave Chatila and Bourj al-Barajneh yesterday and many were seen returning on foot with baskets crammed with fresh food for their families.

King Husain of Jordan attempted yesterday to win Mrs Thatcher's support for a Middle East peace conference involving the United States, the Soviet Union, Europe, the Arab states and Israel (Andrew McEwen writes).

In talks at Downing Street he was said to have called for a strong British role, arguing that this would inevitably involve discussions between the EEC and Syria. Mrs Thatcher was said to have made it clear that Britain's firm stand against high-level talks with Damascus would continue until the Syrians demonstrated a change of policy on terrorism.

Anti-bug plan for British embassy

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

Britain's security authorities are already laying the groundwork for ensuring that the new British Embassy to be built in Moscow will be as secure as possible from Soviet prying and listening devices, after the uproar over the much-bugged American building.

Mrs Thatcher signed an agreement with the Russians when she was in Moscow which formally approved the sites chosen for the new British premises and the new Soviet Embassy and residence in London. Detailed construction agreements will follow.

When the construction programme has been agreed with the Russians, the project will bring into play an extraordinary team of experts employed by the Foreign Office.

The Foreign Office's own architects are already drawing up designs for the two buildings with a team chaired by the Duke of Gloucester. They will work closely with the Foreign Office technical department and the diplomatic estates office of the Property Service Agency, monitoring all building material sent from Britain to Moscow.

Although the Foreign Office will have to rely on Soviet workers to build the foundations and the main structure of the embassy and residence, prefabricated sections will be sent from Britain in sealed containers for the most sensitive parts of the buildings.

In the embassy these are in the chancery area, which includes the political and defence sections, the ambassador's office, the communications centre and the most crucial section of the inner sanctum, the "bubble", the small, heavily insulated room, used for the most secret conversations and communications.

The prefabricated sections will be built, under tight security, by the Foreign Office's technical services department, not by private contractors.

It is accepted that all the areas outside the chancery, including the commercial and consular sections, will be "compromised" by the Russians who will, as a matter of course, place bugging devices inside the structure during the building of the embassy and the residence.

The inner sanctum is controlled by officers of MI6, the secret intelligence service. Then another Foreign Office department, the diplomatic telecommunications maintenance service, will regularly "sweep" this area for bugs.

It will look for the "infinity bug", placed in telephones to record conversations on the phone and in the room, microwave bugs which can be switched on and off, and minute fibre-optic devices. But however sophisticated the bug, in order to work it has to transmit. The trick for the "sweeping" department is to detect the transmissions.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, conferred yesterday with Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, who travels to Moscow on Sunday for critical talks that could lead to a superpower accord on the removal of intermediate-range missiles from Europe (Christopher Thomas writes from Washington).

Rush to take up agony aunt's burden

From Charles Bremner
Chicago

What do you do when the world's most famous agony aunt decides to leave your employment for the rival newspaper up the street?

When Ann Landers left in February, the *Chicago Sun-Times* threw open the job to all comers through a national contest, and is only just recovering from the deluge.

More than 11,000 people from every state in America except North Dakota, plus several from abroad, applied to take over the job of Miss Landers, whose advice to the lovelorn and the insecure is read by 85 million people.

Miss Landers, aged 67, whose real name is Eppie Lederer, moved to the *Chicago Tribune* "for a change" after 32 years in which she became a national institution syndicated to 1,100 newspapers at home and abroad. No other advice-givers have been able to come close to the success of Miss Landers and her almost as well-known identical twin sister, who writes under the name of "Dear Abby".

Flip and lively, but also demure and commonsensical, Miss Landers counsels daily on the traumatic and trivial, on sex, mental illness and alcoholism, wedding gifts, snoring and how to tell someone his flies are undone.

Would-be advice-givers virtually stormed the *Sun-Times* building in Chicago's city centre.

Candidates also bombarded the newspaper with books they had written and films they had produced. An agent for Britain's best known agony aunt also inquired about her prospects.

"We had expected three or maybe four thousand," says Mr Matthew Storin, the editor, "and it's not just the numbers, but the intensity. So many people thought this was just the job for them and they were just made for the job. When you get 11,000, that's impressive."

Editors chose 108 semi-finalists – 18 of them men – who were asked to submit advice to "desperate in Des Plaines" whose husband has threatened to walk out if she fails to lose weight. They must also advise a homosexual whose lover has Aids and a man who suspects that his brother is having an affair with his wife. The winner should be known in June.

Experts are this week choosing six finalists, whose advice will be judged by readers. Miss Lederer was a housewife when she applied along with only 27 others for the job after the newspaper advertised in 1955.

You get a sense of the passion that drove so many Americans to offer their services from the mountain of letters and photographs piled on the desk in Miss Landers's old, pink-painted office. On one end there is the humourless prose of the countless psychologists with professionally printed CVs anxious to vaunt communications skills.

In even greater number are the homely, naive and often barely literate handwritten appeals for the job from middle-aged and elderly housewives, who list their sufferings and say their friends turn to them for advice.

Mr Storin says he expects the new columnist to be a little less straitlaced than Miss Landers, who only recently brought herself to tackle the technicalities of sex.

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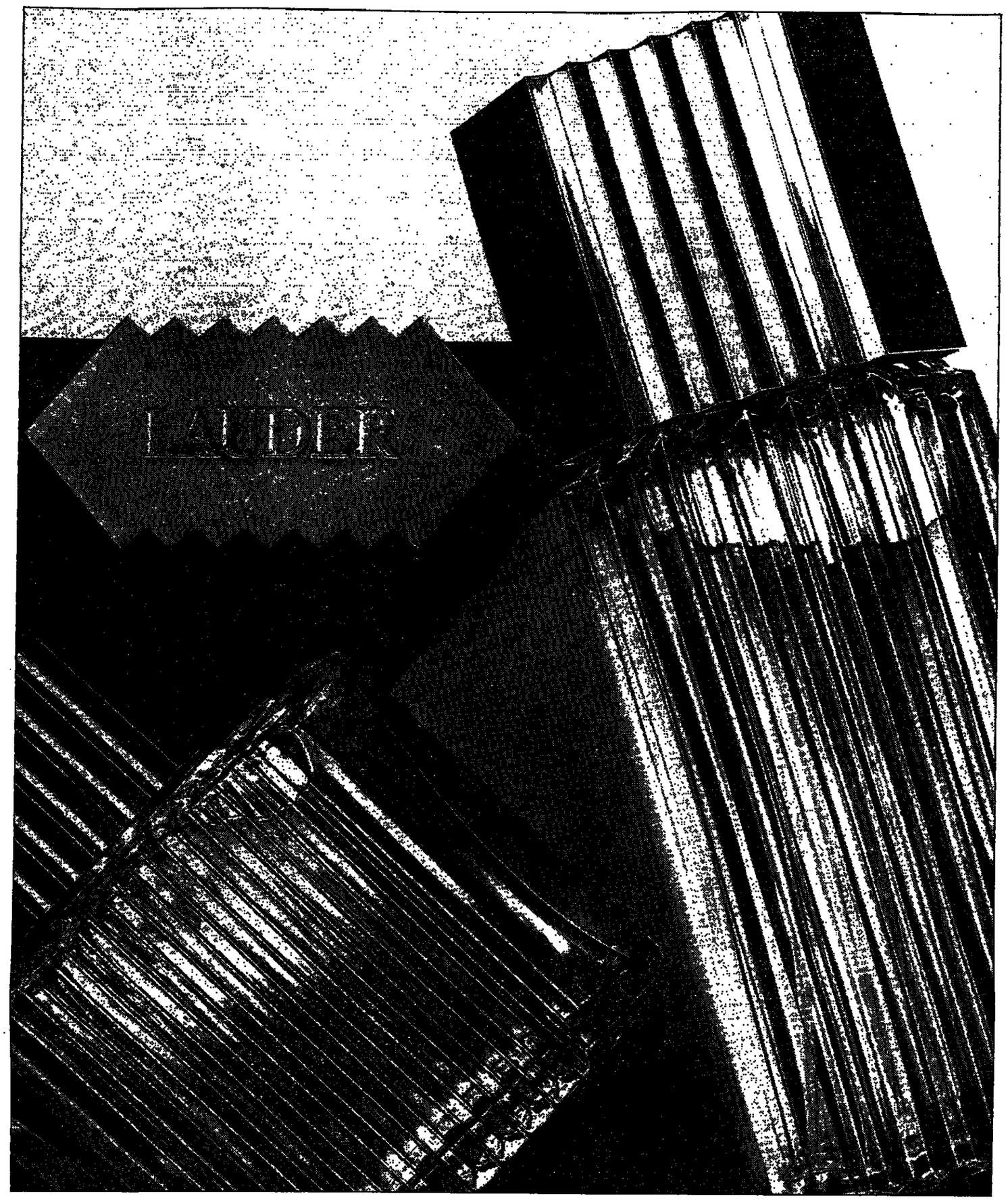


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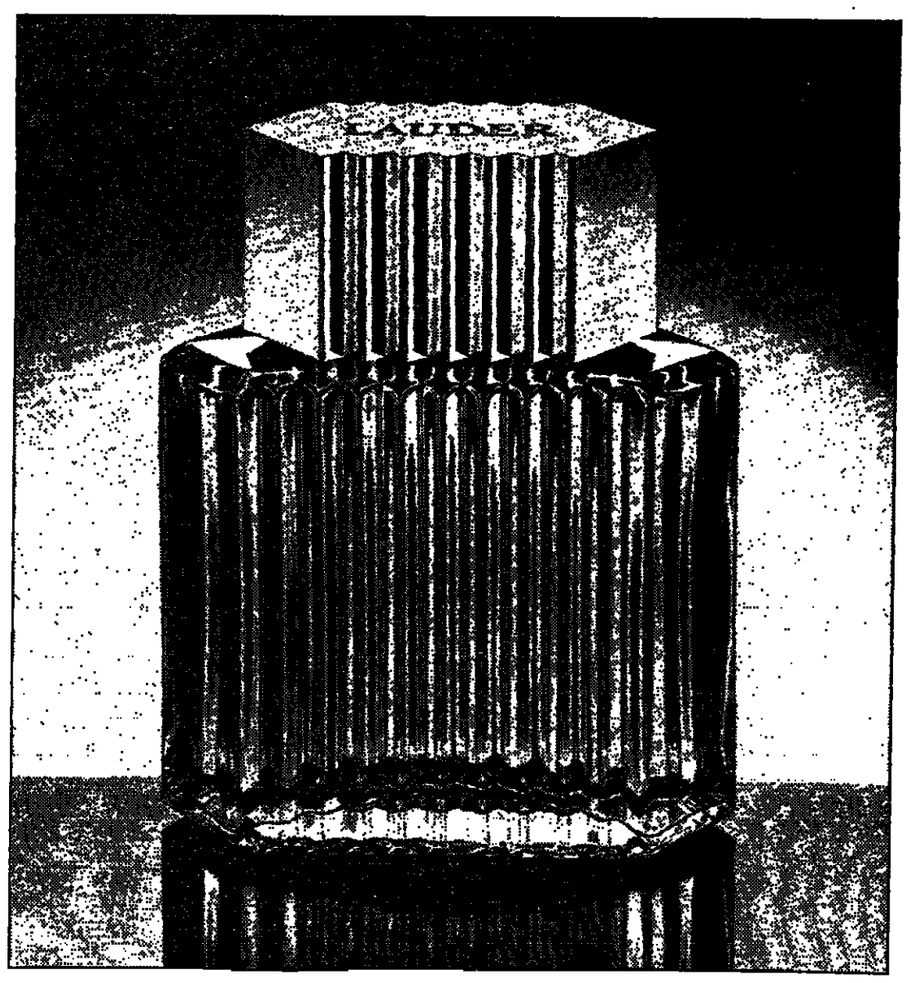


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Israeli President condemns silence of East Germany over 'indescribable horrors' of the Nazi past

Herzog hails Berlin's example of freedom

From Richard Owen, Berlin

Berlin is unavoidably a city of symbols — symbols of past grandeur, now in ruins, of the Nazi terror which was directed from Berlin, and of the present East-West divide.

President Chaim Herzog's visit yesterday was also inevitably rich in symbolism. It did not quite amount to Jewish forgiveness for the Nazi past, but it did have one powerful and unexpected theme: that while the West Germans have done a very great deal to atone for the Holocaust, and none more than the West Berliners, the communist East Germans have done nothing whatever to make amends, even though they share the same past and the same burden of guilt.

With Mr Mikhail Gorbachov making his postponed visit to Czechoslovakia, President Herzog said that the Russians and East Europeans, for all the talk of a new liberalism, were still oppressing "all those who long to live in freedom but are denied the rights we take for granted", including the "great silent masses of my own people", the Jews of the Soviet bloc.

At last night's dinner attended by President Richard von Weizsäcker of West Germany and Herr Eberhard Diepgen, the Mayor of West Berlin, the Israeli President remarked uncompromisingly that Nazi crimes could not be wished away. With Berlin symbolism uppermost in his mind, he noted that the past "still looms like an invisible wall between our two peoples, a wall before which we can only stand mute, erected as it was by the millions of my people who perished in flames and gas on the soil of these lands and this Europe".

He condemned the "pusillanimous and weak" Western powers which failed to act when the Nazis launched the *Kristallnacht* pogroms and used the burning of the Reichstag in Berlin as an excuse for terror leading ultimately to "indescribable horror".

But yesterday, the last full day of the visit, was dominated by thoughts of "good Germans," from the German resistance to Hitler to the current "great West German President", in Mr Herzog's words. A tour which began on Monday at Belsen, a symbol of Jewish persecution, neared its end yesterday with a visit to Plötzensee, the former prison in Berlin where German officers who plotted against Hitler in July 1944 were strung up on meat hooks, as the grisly execution was filmed for Hitler's enjoyment.

He also went to the headquarters of the Axel Springer Corporation, the right-wing publishers of the daily *Bild*, to pay homage to the late Herr Springer's dedication to friendship with Israel.



President Herzog, right, accompanied by Herr Eberhard Diepgen, the West Berlin Mayor, pointing over the Berlin Wall to East Germany during a visit yesterday to the Reichstag, the former German parliament building.

The Springer building, like the Reichstag, overlooks the infamous Wall, and the contrast between the democratic West and the communist East seemed never far from President Herzog's thoughts as he surveyed the city he last saw as a British Army officer in 1945.

"Your stand is an example to many in the free world, and to many on the other side of the Wall," he observed. Those who like him had walked dazed among the ruins of 1945, "could never have dreamt of the Berlin I see before me now". But equally they had never dreamt that a wall would split the great city in two and "mark the border between two worlds".

The difference was that West Germany had had the courage "to look the past straight in the eye. On the other side of the Wall, responsibility for the past was, and still is, denied. Their silence is pregnant with meaning and speaks louder than words."

Bomb in Botswana follows Pretoria warning on ANC

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A car bomb exploded early yesterday morning in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, only a few hours after the South African Foreign Minister, Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, had issued a thinly veiled warning that Pretoria might make raids into neighbouring countries to preempt an alleged plan by the outlawed African National Congress to disrupt the whites-only general election here on May 6.

Senior Superintendent Edwin Barshu of the Gaborone police told *The Times* by telephone that the explosion, apparently caused by a bomb planted in a minibus, had demolished a house in Gaborone West, killing its elderly female owner and two children. Three other people — an elderly man, a woman and a small boy — were injured. All the dead and wounded were citizens of Botswana.

There was speculation here that the bombing might have been the work of South African agents who believed the house to be used by the ANC. Another theory was that ANC operatives might have hidden explosives in the minibus, intending to take it into South Africa, and that the explosion was accidental.

Politicians of the opposition Progressive Federal Party yesterday called Mr Botha's warning about the ANC an electioneering stunt designed to create a mood of panic among white voters.

Speaking to an audience of some 500 ruling National Party supporters at Uvongo on the south coast of Natal on Wednesday night, Mr Botha claimed that "heavily armed terrorists" had assembled in Lusaka, the Zambian capital. "They are on their way via Zimbabwe, Botswana and Mozambique to come and kill innocent people and disrupt the elections."

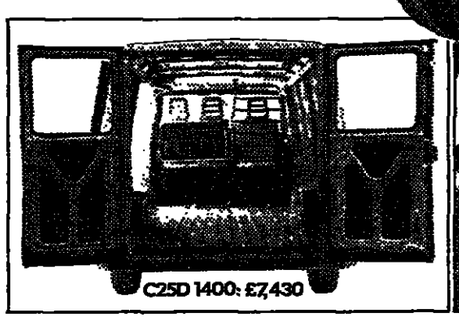
Mr Botha said he had sent messages to the governments concerned urging them "to stop these terrorists moving through their countries. If these terrorists proceed and cross into our country and carry out their evil plan, our security forces will take whatever steps are necessary to retaliate and to protect our borders."

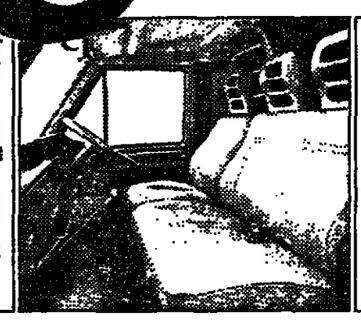
An increased emphasis by government ministers on the alleged ANC threat is expected in the run-up to the election.

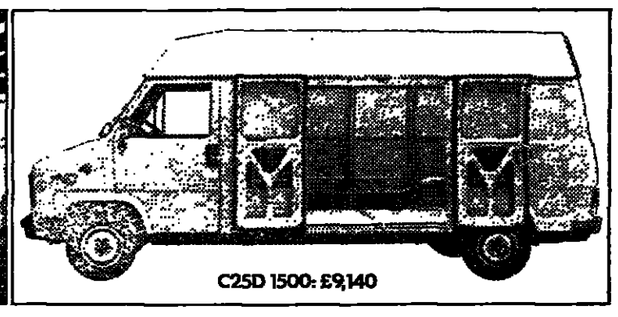
● **Workers arrested:** More than 300 members of a striking black transport workers union were arrested by police near the city of Springs, in eastern Transvaal province, for allegedly gathering illegally, the Government's Bureau of Information said yesterday (*AP reports from* Johannesburg).

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Spacecraft fails in second bid to dock

Moscow (Reuter) — The Soviet Union's new Kvant space module yesterday failed to link up completely in a second docking attempt with the manned space station Mir and ground control was deciding whether or not the mission could be saved.

Tass said that Kvant, a fundamentally new type of craft, had functioned normally through every stage of rendezvous and docking before it hooked up with Mir.

But analysis of information from the craft showed the link-up was incomplete and scientists were studying the data received to decide whether it would be possible to continue operations with the module.

A first attempt to dock Kvant with Mir, which has been manned since February by the cosmonauts Commander Yuri Romanenko, aged 42, and Commander Alexander Laveikin, aged 35, was aborted on Sunday when the module's directional systems failed.

"When mechanical contact between the docking units of the module and the station was achieved, the spacecraft began to be linked up," Tass said.

"Analysis of telemetric information from the spacecraft indicates, however, that the link-up of the module and the orbital station is not complete."

Kvant was launched on March 31 carrying 1.5 tonnes of scientific instruments and equipment for use in experiments to be carried out in space by commanders Romanenko and Laveikin.

A Soviet space expert said yesterday that Kvant, which weighs more than 20 tonnes together with a service pod, had enough fuel to try two more dockings after the first failed attempt.

● PARIS: The accident-prone third-stage engine of the European Ariane space rocket has suffered a new hitch in testing, just a week after an error forced the dismantling of the previous motor undergoing trials (Reuter reports).

An Arianespace spokesman said yesterday that the problem was still being assessed and it was not known whether there would be any delay in the next launch, scheduled to take place in June.

Six die as New York flats fall after blast

New York (Reuter) — Six people were killed and 16 injured when a four-storey block of flats and an adjoining grocery shop exploded and collapsed in the Bronx.

Twelve rescue workers were also hurt after the blast, which fire officials suspect was caused by gas.

1,800 missing

Hong Kong (*AFP*) — More than 1,800 Vietnamese refugees who chose to sail on rather than stay in the colony's closed camps for refugees, are missing, a newspaper said.

Editor quits

Belgrade (Reuter) — Mr Miran Lesjak, editor of the Yugoslav youth magazine *Katedra*, resigned after being criticized by the authorities for publishing an interview with a leading dissident.

Crew killed

Travis Air Force Base, California (AP) — A Southern Air Transport cargo plane plunged into a field and exploded while on a training flight, killing all five crew.

Chalker trip

Addis Ababa (Reuter) — Mrs Lynda Chalker, the Foreign Office Minister, arrived on a two-day fact-finding tour of relief operations in Ethiopia.

Disaster toll

Delhi (Reuter) — Natural disasters such as floods, cyclones and drought killed 1,180 in the past 12 months, the Press Trust of India said.

Lagos bail

Lagos (Reuter) — Three senior editors of the proscribed Nigerian magazine *Newswatch* have been released on bail after 24 hours in custody.

African aid

Brussels (AP) — The European Commission is to give nearly £1 million in urgent aid to Mozambique, Uganda, Ivory Coast and Cameroon.

Fighter deal

Peking (AFP) — China is considering selling F 7M combat planes to Brazil, the New China News Agency said.

Kohl weighs up his economies of scale

From John England, Bonn

Chancellor Kohl of West Germany is taking two weeks off from weighty affairs of state to tackle his equally heavy personal problems with his bathroom scales.

He has gone to a "hunger cure" clinic at Bad Hofgastein, in Austria, where he is living on a frugal diet of stale, rock-hard breakfast rolls, herb tea and water. A similar cure last year shed 15 lb from his "manager size" frame, but official banquets and his fondness for the pleasures of his domestic table soon filled the gap, and more.

Herr Kohl's weight is not the stuff of Chancellery bulletins, but observers put it at present around 19 st. His drastic diet, based on the teachings of one Franz Xavier Mayr and of the Marquis de Sade, requires him to spend at least 20 minutes on eating a sliced (or sawn) roll. If he follows these orders, reports say, he is rewarded with a teaspoonful of milk to help it go down.

Herr Kohl, local spies add, is also going on long walks.

Described as a "good patient", he will no doubt return to Bonn, as he did last year, with a somewhat streamlined figure. But his new shape is not expected to last long.

The Chancellor, who has just turned 57, is a big man with a small boy's sweet tooth. He makes his own rich cream caramel, likes generous helpings of noodles of any kind and is said to adore *Saumagen*, a dish from his own Pfalz region, which is well seasoned pork sausagemeat packed into a pig's stomach.

Many of his Cabinet ministers are also men of ample girth but the British Cabinet principle of collective responsibility has never been favoured in Bonn, and is especially not on in this case.

هكذا من الاصل

Spring of discontent brings challenge to González

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's Communist-run trade unions will make their bid today to bring out a million workers in a "general day of protest" and battle of wills with the Government of Señor Felipe González.

But today is also for millions of Spaniards the start of an Easter break, and so they will be "punished" by a 24-hour public transport strike involving Iberia, the state airline, the domestic airline, the state railways and Madrid's underground trains.

On 14 days over the next three weeks, there will be 24-hour stoppages for more wages in the building and car industries, mining and textiles, the state hotel network and petrol stations. Doctors and public health workers were already yesterday on the second day of a 72-hour hospital stoppage, accompanied by 15,000 protesting medical students.

Spain's spring of discontent contrasts with that autumn four and a half years ago when Señor González, about to win the general election, gave a promise of "change", the slogan interpreted by the 10 million who voted Socialist as meaning improvements for them.

Cabinet colleagues of the Prime Minister insist these days on the multiplicity of the complaints, the contradictions between them, and the consequent difficulty of finding negotiating partners who could "deliver" if a compromise was reached.

Señor Juan Barranco, Madrid's Socialist Mayor, worried about the impact of weeks of street protests in this city on his chances in the June 10 municipal elections, blames



Señor Solchaga: a bitter quarrel with Señor Redondo, the veteran Socialist trade union leader, has complicated Spain's already grave labour troubles.

his own party for losing contact with the feelings of ordinary people.

This is criticism of national party leaders too tightly controlled by the Prime Minister's office. Señor González, in his rare public appearances nowadays, emphasizes his interest in efficiency at the expense of ideological trappings. The trouble is that efficiency is the most obvious element Spain currently lacks.

This year's labour troubles stem from the absence of the annual national wage framework accord between unions and employers.

Superimposed on this is the Communist-run Workers' Commissions' politically motivated battle with the Government and a bitter personal quarrel between Señor Carlos Solchaga, the Economics and Finance Minister, and Señor Nicolás Redondo, the veteran Socialist trade union leader.

After four and a half years in office, the Government is still toiling over crucial reforms in the national health and civil services. Many civil servants recruited in the Franco era make progress difficult.

Restructuring old, inefficient industries causes sharp conflicts in specific areas as the Government tries to meet the requirements of EEC membership. But it faces a labour force still clinging to Franco regime rigidities.

This week a West German employers' delegation told the Government what it had to do, and a delegation from the Confederation of British Industry will visit Spain later this month.

At a Madrid lunch club meeting earlier this week, the leader of the Socialist civil servants' union confronted the Socialist Deputy Minister for Civil Service Reform, telling him: "You can talk about everything, but there is money for nothing".

A fundamental problem for the González Government this spring is the gap between the public purse and the Spanish people's expectations, encouraged by the Socialists in opposition but also by all previous governments since the advent of democracy.

"I voted for the Socialists in 1982 and now in government they have become so arrogant," one of the striking medical students' leaders told me yesterday. They are protesting against the Government's interpretation of the EEC directive requiring all medical students by 1992 to have had two years' experience in hospitals before they can qualify.

Señor Julián Garcia Vargas, the Health Minister, has had to tell the students that their country's budget simply does not run to more training of all those young Spaniards who want to join the ranks of the country's well-paid doctors.

17 guns for new Governor

From David Bonavia
Hong Kong

Sir David Wilson, the new Governor of Hong Kong, arrived here yesterday and, wearing the traditional white uniform and plumed topee, took up his appointment with a highly formal welcome from local dignitaries.

Sir David and Lady Wilson were brought from the airport on the mainland side of the harbour in the launch "Lady Maureen", set aside for the Governor's private use. A 17-gun salute was fired from naval headquarters and the band played six bars of the national anthem.

After inspecting the Gurkha units who help garrison Hong Kong, Sir David was taken to the town hall near by to swear the oaths of allegiance before the political and commercial élite of the territory, which reverts to full Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Sir David and Sir David Akers-Jones, hitherto the acting Governor, referred in their speeches to the achievements of the late Sir Edward Youde, who died during a visit to China last year.

The new Governor, who is aged 52, will be an extremely busy man, coping with Hong Kong's political and economic developments and the social problems of a sophisticated city state in transition to a "special administrative region" of the People's Republic of China.

The Wilsons later gave a reception for leading Hong Kong residents.



Sir David Wilson, Hong Kong's new Governor, saluting the Gurkha guard before being sworn in yesterday.

Hold-up in key Deng reforms at congress

From Robert Grieves
Peking

In a move that underscores the difficulties faced by Mr Deng Xiaoping's reforms, Mr Peng Zhen, chairman of China's National People's Congress, has announced that draft regulations concerning the organization of rural village committees are unlikely to be adopted as legislation at the congress's current session.

Mr Peng, aged 85, made his remarks to Hong Kong and Macao reporters at a press conference held in the Great Hall of the People here.

The regulations, which were expected to be approved today, would have institutionalized the rural village committees, some 950,000 of which have been set up throughout the countryside since 1982.

Meanwhile, the official closing of the congress was pushed back from today to the weekend, possibly to allow more time for debate on the village committee regulations.

A law on state industrial enterprises, which would have underwritten the primacy of managers in factories rather than that of party bosses, has also been postponed.

Taken as a whole, the present NPC session appears to have stalled for the moment some of Mr Deng's key economic and political reforms.

Australian Bicentennial

Budget cuts wither Canberra pastures

From Stephen Taylor, Canberra

Construction workers at Canberra's new Parliament House have started a programme of so-called "fast-track building" to get this symbol of national prestige ready for a dramatic opening ceremony during next year's Bicentennial.

The urgency on Capital Hill is well-founded. The project is far behind schedule and even though an opening will be able to go ahead in 15 months' time, the new home of the federal legislature will probably not be in full use until the end of 1988.

With an election pending, the Government of Mr Bob Hawke is keen to get the maximum benefit from a structure which, for cost and concept, is being compared with another Australian architectural wonder, the Sydney Opera House.

Perhaps it was inevitable that the new Parliament would be the costliest structure in Australian history, particularly when just one feature, a 266ft-high flagpole, has cost $Aus 4.4 million (about £1.8 million).

Even so, the disclosure that the final bill will top $Aus 1 billion, at a time when Australia's trade imbalance is matched only by the scale of the national debt, was likely to provoke a public clamour.

Savings of $Aus 43.3 million ordered last July had already brought the axe down on such facilities as the bowling green and an emergency civil defence shelter, the purpose of which has never been disclosed.

By agreeing to cheaper furnishings and recycling some of their old desks and chairs, the nation's leaders managed to save taxpayers another $Aus 11 million.

Still the outcry continued, however, prompting another round of economizing, and this time it was the cuts which started the storm.

Mr Walter Burley Griffin, the American landscape architect whose design for Canberra as a federal capital was adopted back in 1912, conceived it as a garden city. Accordingly, the Parliament was always intended to be "elegantly integrated into its site and surroundings" on a 99-acre hillside.

Carving a sizeable $Aus 9.5 million chunk from the landscaping budget has changed all that.

The chief casualty is the irrigation scheme which was to have kept the lawns, shrubberies and trees on Capital Hill in a state of constant lushness, in line with Mr Griffin's vision.

Without regular watering of the area the new Parliament, far from blending pleasantly with the natural landscape, will be seen squatting starkly on a mound of dry, brown grass.

It is hard to find anyone in Canberra at the moment who thinks this is a reasonable idea. Mr Gordon Peatey, head of the Parliament Construction Authority, says it is unquestionably a serious departure from the design plan. The architects themselves are apparently "mortified".

One irate Canberra resident went on television to suggest that, as Capital Hill is going to be dry enough to resemble the Outback anyway, the standing committee of MPs responsible for the cuts should go the whole hog and let kangaroos on to the site.

Mr Hawke is bothered as well. He wrote to the standing committee saying he believed the effect would "greatly diminish the impact of the building". He is also reportedly concerned about economies to the courtyard where he will receive visiting heads of state. It is proposed that features like a sculpture, pergolas and running water will be sacrificed, reducing the area to an austere patch of lawn.

The committee rejected the Prime Minister's proposal that the eight tennis courts for members' use be scrapped instead.

Consensus, not confrontation, is the keyword of the Hawke administration. As a negotiator honed by years of experience in Australian trade union affairs, the Prime Minister knows how to wait. The betting in Canberra is that the final word has not been heard in the landscape battle.

JAL crash inquiry halted after suicide

Tokyo (Reuter) — An investigation of three Japanese government aircraft inspectors after the worst single-plane crash in history has been stopped after a request by the Transport Ministry, police said yesterday.

The ministry made the request last week, an official said, after the suicide of a fourth inspector who was questioned by police for four days last month.

A police spokesman in Gunma prefecture, where a Japan Air Lines Boeing 747 crashed on August 12, 1985, killing 520 of the 524 people on board, said: "We do not really need to talk to them. We are not easing off because we are afraid they will kill themselves."

The police were questioning several airline maintenance staff to determine who was responsible for the crash.

A draft report by a Transport Ministry investigation team, obtained this week, said that faulty repairs in 1978 by the US Boeing Company and inadequate inspection by ministry inspectors had contributed to the cause of the disaster. The report is expected to be made public next month.

Boeing has said it will probably not comment on the report until it is officially released.

● **NEW DELHI:** India and Canada have paid $4.8 million (£3 million) in compensation to families of 114 victims of an Air India plane crash off the Irish coast two years ago, the Government announced here yesterday (AFP reports).

All 329 people on board an Air India Boeing 747 on a scheduled flight from Toronto to Bombay died when it crashed on June 23, 1985, after a bomb allegedly planted by Sikh militants exploded in the cargo section.

The Civil Aviation Minister, Mr Jagdish Tytler, told Parliament that 69 of the claims were settled in India and the rest in Canada.

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B wise
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SPECTRUM

Nick Rogers



In which they served: merchant ships like the Methane Princess, laid up on the River Fal, Cornwall, could be vital in a future European war — but are enough of them close to home?

The fleet's up a creek

Five years ago this week, the Falklands task force was en route to the south Atlantic, followed by an armada of vital merchant ships. One lesson was learned and Royal Navy cuts have not gone ahead. But, as George Hill reports, the merchant fleet is still in rapid and alarming decline

The Falklands war five years ago brought about a radical and rapid reversal in the Government's policy towards warships, with a planned rundown of the Royal Navy dropped in the light of the conflict with the Argentinians.

Yet the fate of the merchant fleet, which played a crucial if less public role in the south Atlantic, has been entirely different. It has been rundown on an unprecedented scale — last year alone its tonnage shrank by one-third — and the number of British-owned and registered merchant ships has shrunk by almost 50 per cent compared with just before the Falklands war. Half the merchant ships in the conflict now sail under foreign flags.

Although only a few merchant vessels caught public attention in the Falklands — notably the liners Queen Elizabeth II and Canberra, the Uganda, a cruising classroom turned hospital ship, and the container ship Atlantic Conveyor, sunk by Exocet missiles with the loss of 12 lives — they all contributed crucially to the successful outcome of the conflict.

Indeed, the carriers and frigates of the fighting fleet were only a minority of the force and they could never have operated, in waters almost 4,000 miles from a friendly port, without the backing of a larger fleet of service and supply ships, most of which were requisitioned or chartered from the merchant fleet. At the height of the fighting, more than half of the entire fleet at sea consisted of such vessels, with volunteer civilian crews.

Since the Falklands, there has been no shortage of lobbying on behalf of the merchant fleet, culminating in the weeks before last month's Budget with the owners' organizations and the National Union of Seamen mounting a strenuous campaign to recover tax concessions abolished in 1984. The Chancellor pointedly ignored them.

It is true that the number of vessels in the British merchant marine is still 10 times as large as the total of 55 that sailed with the warships to the Falklands. The fleet is also healthier than it was in the early 1980s, in that it contains a relatively small number of ships laid up without work (a factor which paradoxically was a great help in assembling the Task Force).

But within months of the Falklands cease-fire, the Merchant Navy and Airline Officers' Association warned that the rate of decline would make it impossible to mount another Falklands operation after the end of 1983. Since then the decline has not slowed, but accelerated alarmingly. Yet all Britain's military planning assumes that, in any sustained European war, these ships would play at least as important a role as they did in the Falklands, and one demanding much greater resources.

The Falklands precedent may be disquieting, but the real naval challenge facing Britain is far more exacting. The chances of Britain ever again having to fight such an oddly archaic campaign are vanishingly remote. Military planning is centred on the far more complex and dangerous possibility of a major conflict in Europe, and the Merchant Navy's designated role in that scenario would be crucial.

Among the most persistent advocates of more support for shipping is Sir Edward du Cann, Conservative MP for Taunton. "Any examination of the tasks Nato would ask of the Merchant Navy in wartime shows that we do not have the ships to discharge them by miles," he says.

He is discouraged that the authorities seem so blinkered. "Even if the Ministry of Defence claims that there are enough ships for our Nato role, that still leaves the supply of the civilian population to be dealt with."

On paper it would be possible to raise a fleet comparable to the Falklands one today, although the virtual disappearance of the deep-water fishing fleet would make minesweepers harder to find. But what counts is the number of ships in the right place at the right time. At any given moment most of a world-wide trading fleet will be out of reach, or under refit.

Three roles are officially foreseen for merchant ships in a European war — to carry troops from Britain to the mainland, to supply the forces there, and to bring reinforcements across the Atlantic. But even to state the problem in those terms opens up a relatively leisurely vista of conflict. It is not only the unilateralist tendency which finds this conception of the holocaust unduly relaxed.

The Labour MP Dr John Gilbert, one of the more searching and realistic members of the Commons defence committee, is scathing about the Royal Navy's qualities of foresight. "If it gets to the point of sinking ships, it isn't going to stop at sinking ships. The Navy hankers after the idea of a long conflict, but it ain't going to be that sort of war. It will all be over before a transatlantic convoy could be assembled.

"During our committee's inquiry, we found that the ministry had done no detailed research into availability. It is no use counting on using a ship in the Atlantic if it only trades between Taiwan and Hong Kong. It is necessary to look at the subject not in broad-brush terms, but by asking whether we have enough of the types of ship we will really need."

The Government sets much store by the fact that some major British companies have not disposed of their fleets, but have simply transferred them to other flags. But Sir Edward du Cann warns: "Any suggestion that we could promptly requisition British-owned ships which have been moved to overseas registers belies the realities.

"We learned in the Falklands that ships with foreign crews could not be counted on. There is a broader need for a thriving seafaring industry; it supplies the skilled manpower necessary in an emergency, as well as for all kinds of peacetime services."

The clearest need in a European war would be for roll-on roll-off ferries for amphibious operations, ships that can be used to lay mines and take anti-mine countermeasures, and small tankers and supply ships. Container ships that can be converted to carry aircraft would be valuable.

The number of ships the planners are counting on in a future conflict is a military secret. Asterisks sprinkle ministers' replies in the minutes of the parliamentary committees which have repeatedly fretted over the problem since 1982. It appears that in 1984 the Ministry of Defence was thinking in terms of at least 400 ships.

Last year's dramatic contraction in the fleet brought the number of mainland UK-registered vessels down to 523, leading the General Council of British Shipping to warn that the number might be down to 100 by 1995. Unless there is an uncanny correspondence between the types of ships needed and the types which happen to survive, there is probably already an effective shortfall.

With British regulations on manning and pay-rates rigorous, many owners have not unnaturally abandoned the Red Ensign in droves and registered their ships under other flags — or else have moved out of shipping altogether. The incentive to build new ships is slight, so the remaining fleet grows older and less competitive. The root question is how much the country is prepared to spend bolstering up an uncompetitive fleet for a hazily-defined role in a hypothetical conflict.

In immediate economic terms, the weight of the argument points the other way. Shipping interests all over the world have played the patriotic card with huge success for many years. Subsidies have forced freight levels down to unrealistic levels.

Where Britain may still be able to compete is with specialized high-technology ships that its rivals cannot produce, and with crews having the high skills to man them. The three off-the-peg ship designs announced by British Shipbuilders last month show the possible shape of the future. But this implies a further run-down in Britain's elderly fleet, and in overall size. And there is no guarantee that the types which could compete commercially would meet defence needs.

"I'm coming to the conclusion that our fleet is largely obsolete," says Stephen Ross, Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight and a member of the Commons transport committee. "I don't think throwing large sums of money is the answer — we need to encourage new ideas, new techniques. The danger is that we may get down to the point where we no longer have the resources to recover. But we're a maritime nation, we're surrounded by water. Could we really survive without a thriving seafaring industry?"

Leading article, page 13

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Five years ago the Royal Fleet Auxiliary was able to charter and requisition 52 ships to fight in the Falklands in a matter of weeks. All but two of them were registered in Britain at the time. Of the remaining 50, fewer than half are now registered on the British mainland.

Scrapped (2): Passenger ship Uganda and container ship Atlantic Causeway.

Sold abroad (11):
Passenger ferries: Rangatira (Cyprus).
Tankers: British Test (Iran), British Avon (Italy), British Dart (Iran), Scottish Eagle (Cyprus), Anco Charger (Liberia). Cargo ships: Lycaon (Panama), Strathewe (Greece), Saxonia (Cyprus). Trawlers: Cordella (New Zealand), Junella (Norway)

Registered abroad (15):
Passenger ships: St Edmund (Bahamas), St Helena (St Helena). Cargo ship: Tor Caledonia (Bahamas). Tankers: British Tamar (Bahamas), British Tay (Bahamas), British Forth (Bahamas), British Wye (Bahamas), British Trent (Bahamas), British Esk (Bahamas), Alvega (Gibraltar), Fort Toronto (Isle of Man), Eburna (Isle of Man), G.A. Walker (Isle of Man). Trawlers: Pict (Guernsey). Chemical carriers: Orionman (Isle of Man).

UK OWNED TRADING FLEET
(over 500 deadweight tonnes)

Year	UK owned and reg	UK owned/ foreign reg	Total tonnes	Percentage of world fleet
1975	1,614	Not known	50m	8.9
1982	868	105 (est)	28.8m	4.2
1986	523	90	16.7m	2.9

MERCHANT MANPOWER

	Dec 1976	Dec 1986
Officers	39,114	11,877
Ratings	34,812	17,250
Total	73,926	29,127

Young Irish brain drain

A recent EEC rule has prompted southern Irish students, unable to afford college courses in the Republic, to seek places across the waters — at Britain's expense

The Dublin hotel foyer had rarely been busier. In the bar, customers settled down to watch an afternoon's racing, but upstairs the rest room was preparing for an invasion of young people and their parents. It had been the same in Cork and Limerick, with hundreds flocking to learn of opportunities available at Scottish colleges.

As parents gathered armfuls of leaflets on courses, anxious students quizzed representatives about entrance requirements and the chances of employment on the mainland. After four days in the Irish Republic some 1,500 students had met the delegates from Scotland, who were as stunned by the response as visitors from Liverpool Polytechnic had been during a similar trip earlier this year.

The Scottish delegates should not, perhaps, have been surprised. They had written to every school within a 50-mile radius of the three cities on their itinerary, and they left with lists of names of prospective students wanting application forms to colleges in Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Paisley and Aberdeen.

The numbers hoping for higher education across the Irish Sea is evidence of both the pressure for places and the cost of courses in the Republic, two factors that are causing despair for ambitious parents and their children. They are also turning the Republic into an ideal recruiting ground for UK institutions, threatened by rationalization or even closure due to declining birth-rates. In the Republic half the population is under 25 and too many school-leavers are chasing too few places.

> 'This country cannot support its young people'

A big attraction for southern Irish parents is the financial saving. Following a recent EEC ruling, students from Common Market countries studying in Britain can now have their annual £536 tuition fee paid by the British Exchequer. Few noticed the change at first but a trickle is now turning into a flood in the Republic, where fees range from I£900 (£825) to I£1,600 (£1,467) a year.

"I don't mind admitting it's the financial bonus," said Gerard D'Arcy, who had travelled from Athlone to Dublin to find out about the Scottish colleges for his two daughters. With two children already at university in the Republic at a cost of more than I£4,000 (£3,670) a year, D'Arcy admitted he could not afford to send his two girls as well.

"We are educating for emigration," he said. "This country cannot support its young people. I think it will be cheaper to maintain them outside this country."

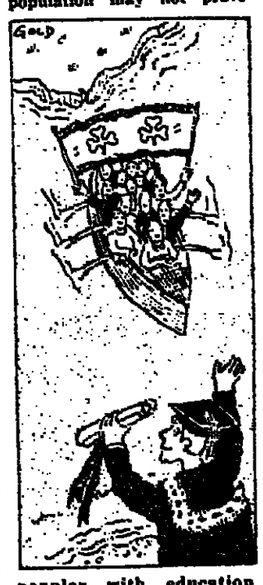
High fees and a strict grants system can almost cripple many middle-income families. Parents with three children hoping to put an eldest child through university must earn less than I£13,330 (£11,926) to qualify for a grant.

But paying fees for a growing immigrant student population may not prove popular with education authorities. At present, the British Exchequer is hit both ways — paying fees for Irish students at UK universities and colleges as well as for UK students at establishments in the Republic. The former vice-chancellor of Queen's University in Belfast has warned of a possible reaction in the north to a large influx from the south, especially if Irish students are perceived as being "educated on the cheap".

A spokesman for the Scottish Education Department said: "We are getting applications from the Irish Republic which are being considered but we don't know the figures involved yet."

The Scottish delegation, however, were jubilant over the seriousness and calibre of the teenagers they had met and they were already preparing to find out the cost of living in Scotland and the type of accommodation available to help Irish parents in making their decision.

Richard Ford



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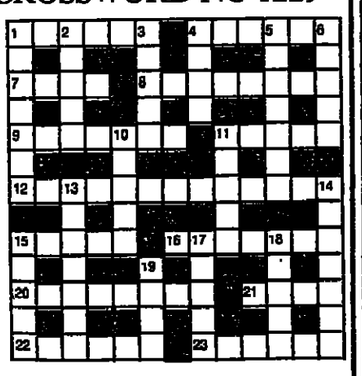
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CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1229



ACROSS
1 Pleaded (6)
4 1/8th fluid oz (6)
7 Goad (4)
8 Gaberdine raincoat (8)
9 Let air out (7)
11 Sun related (5)
12 Philip II's 1588 fleet (7,6)
15 Stone worker (5)
16 Current (7)
20 Yangtze port (8)
21 Yearn (4)
22 Macaque monkey (6)
23 Muzzle loader stick (6)

DOWN
1 Apart from (7)
2 Low, surly (5)
3 First public show (5)
4 Ominous (4)
5 Petals (7)
6 Corporation leader (5)
10 Put in line (5)
11 Fragment (5)
13 Soothe (7)
14 Asserted (7)
15 Mean type (5)
17 Willow twig (5)
18 Church singing group (5)
19 In this manner (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1228
ACROSS: 1 Bisect 4 Gauche 9 Scalpel 10 Polka 11 Spiv 12 Clippie 14 Deprivation 18 Boswell 19 Lapp 22 Canal 24 Elegant 25 Svelte 26 Strong
DOWN: 1 Base 2 Scamp 3 Cape Verde 5 Alp 6 Calypso 7 Evaded 8 Black Velvet 11 Sad 13 Intellect 15 Essence 16 Nip 17 Abacus 20 Piano 21 Stag 23 Lot



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THE TIMES SATURDAY

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Mortimer on Olivier

"It's hard to write dispassionately of an actor who has been your father, and died in your father's bed . . ." In *The Times* tomorrow, John Mortimer pays tribute to Lord Olivier, who will be 80 next month

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Caroline Phillips meditates on the less sinister side of self-awareness courses

We've ways of making you work

Graham Wood



Insighters: Judy Tame and colleagnes David Fishman (left) and Roy Sherman

Seven years ago, when I was a politics student, I attended a weekend seminar — one which, offering instant enlightenment, promised to change one's life. Students who had attended it glowed with confidence, displaying an enviable clarity of purpose, and enhanced ability to communicate. The course had its biggest impact at Bristol University. It was not run under the aegis of the university, but rather of one Robert D'Aubigny a former actor and son of a meat salesman. It was called Exegesis and folded in 1984.

The seminar, which employed a range of heavily-confrontational, psychological techniques in the name of self-development, had a liberating effect on my mind and pocket. Something that was based so much on fear and authoritarian leadership patterns was reprehensible. But it offered some valuable insights and perspectives which have had a lasting, beneficial effect.

Exegesis wasn't a cult: there was no religious worship and no devotion to a person. Participants were not brainwashed although, as a malleable teenager, I was probably somewhat indoctrinated. There were no signs, at that time, of Serious Money on the same scale as the fleet of Rolls-Royces owned by Rajneesh, guru of the Orange People, although it became clear later that D'Aubigny had strong material and political ambitions. And there were no Scientology-type billion-year contracts (affirming a belief

'Insight is the best thing that ever happened to me'

in reincarnation) on offer. Yet Exegesis constituted the very extreme end of the enlightenment kick.

Many other self-development programmes are not as sinister as generally believed. Insight, for instance, is a gentle, distant cousin of Exegesis, founded in the United States in 1978. "American cult courses alarm TV-am staff", ran a recent headline in a national paper. For TV-am's managing director Bruce Gyngell had encouraged staff to attend Insight self-awareness courses. "Insight is about being caring, compassionate and concerned about other people," Gyngell is quoted as saying. It is not inconceivable that this outlook could have advantageous business applications.

Insight courses — six days with about 150 participants — involve an initial outlay of £75 and a post-seminar "donation". "The largest contributions have been over £20,000, most pay £300 and about 5 per cent have been dissatisfied and had refunds," says the ebullient, 30-year-old UK director, Ruth Lederman. She says 40,000 people have taken part in Insight worldwide and 1,500 in the UK since it started regularly in 1985. A prominent Harley Street doctor recommends it to his patients — "I have only gained benefit from it" — but nevertheless wishes to remain anonymous.

The course combines a variety of techniques from "mini lectures" and guided meditation to group interactions. They will not give specific examples: "that would be like giving away the punchline to a joke," says Lederman. "The seminar is about bringing out excellence in individuals."

In the United States, whole companies have undergone the training; here, chunks of companies have taken part. Designer/supplier Janet Reger took the Insight course two years ago, while adjusting to her company's liquidation and an unhappy marriage. "Insight is the best thing that ever happened to me," she said. Two of her seven employees have now taken the course. "We make decisions more easily and express ourselves more clearly," says Reger. "Business is now very good."

Judy Tame, 33, a financial consultant to Allied Dunbar, went on the seminar in 1984. Now 12 people from her department of 50 have taken her lead. "It creates a happy, positive atmosphere," she said. "Tensions are solved more easily, and we have a clearer vision for pulling ourselves out of difficult patches."

The claims for Transcendental Meditation (TM) are equally startling. TM, which started in 1958, is a self-help technique popularized by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, former guru to the Beatles. Teachers now wear business suits and intense looks. They claim to be able to fly: "We are in the early stages of levitation and call it 'hopping'," says conference administrator and TM teacher Richard Johnson.

TM is a simple, mental technique, practised while sitting twice daily for 20 minutes and using a sound from an available selection of mantras. Its teachers say it induces a state of deep rest during which the metabolic rate drops by 16 per cent and the body rids itself of accumulated tensions, emerging deeply refreshed. Fees are on a sliding scale according to income, and range from £65 to £245 for six hours of instruction in four sittings.

Johnson claims that TM improves mental clarity and also believes it reduces stress and the likelihood of illness. Dr Roger Chalmers, president of the British Association for the Medical Application of TM, says that more than 350 scientific studies conducted over the past 15 years support such assertions.

TM says some 3½ million people have taken part in its courses, including 150,000 in this country, 600 of whom, it claims, are doctors. A recent symposium held for the Society of Occupational Medicine "was greeted with enthusiasm," Johnson says.

Gordon Crompton, 32, managing director of Crompton Machine Company, did TM two years ago — "feeling unwell after a stressful period in business". Sceptical, he feared it might be mad and mystical. "But my well-being and health improved. The tension has gone and I am able to cope much better." So he introduced it to his factory: and 35 per cent of the 50 employees now meditate. "Now they approach new projects positively," he says, "and we seem to be getting higher production figures for less effort."

Life Training is another programme that promises positive results. It claims 20,000 people have taken it worldwide since 1981; 1,200 in England since starting in 1984. The training, which costs £240, takes place over an intensive weekend, or over six evenings (£60). The brainchild of two US Episcopalian priests,

'At first I thought thought they were a bunch of weirdos'

both trained therapists, Life Training is similar to Exegesis and Insight, and teacher David Templer dubs it "an experimental workshop." Using discussion, meditation, improvized theatre and games, the course is a synthesis of a range of psychological, philosophical and spiritual traditions.

Templer, who also works as a freelance marketing consultant, has found it helps him in the business world. "I am less combative and find I co-operate more easily."

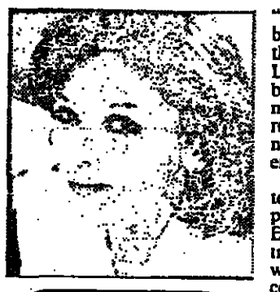
Robert Stephens, 43, vice-president of Mellon-Pictet International Management, did the training three years ago. "I was feeling pretty sorry for myself at a personal and business level," he said. Initially he thought they were "a bunch of weirdos". Now he says he sees that the format is a catalyst for a more open and honest way of relating.

Not everyone, however, is convinced. Hans Eysenck, Professor Emeritus of Psychology at London University, says: "There is no evidence that such courses do any good and there are certain, albeit infrequent, cases when people have been harmed. So-called self-knowledge can be dangerous, particularly when it awakens neurotic fears, anxieties and stresses, as often happens.

"Many claims are made for these self-awareness programmes, none of which is substantiated by the evidence. They are cults in the same way as many forms of psycho-therapy, such as scream therapy, are — and claims for these have not been substantiated either."

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A square deal for the square ring



BARBARA AMIEL

Last week a 15-year-old boy died after 52 seconds of a boxing match. It is said that the autopsy revealed a condition that predisposed a cerebal haemorrhage, but of course the death shocks all the same. Not surprisingly, the incident immediately renewed the campaign to have boxing banned.

Most schools have long jettisoned boxing from their sports curriculum and by now, children who want to take part in the sport have to join a local boxing club. The Downside Settlement is one such club, tucked away in a building opposite the railway arches in Bermondsey. It's a grey, depressed area with little street life, except the kind you want to avoid.

When I dropped by, a couple of evenings ago, 13-year-old Paul Carr was giving one of the three punching bags in the gym a nasty workout. Paul, a polite young man with arms and hands that seemed two sizes too large for him, lives in Sidcup, Kent. He had pestered the family about boxing since he was eight years old, explained his uncle, who alternates with the boy's father to drive him in every evening.

Paul, who reached the finals of the National Schoolboys Championship in Derby last year, was too busy to say very much. When pressed, he admitted that the boxing life had the drawback of making hamburgers and chips off limits. He knew about the death of Joe Sticklen, but it could happen to anyone, he shrugged. I didn't pursue it.

I must confess that I rarely can find any inherent logic in the arguments to ban boxing. It's not that I'm a mad fan of the sport myself, you understand. In fact, when I switched on the television set last Tuesday night and came upon the Leonard-Hagler middleweight championship fight, I hid my eyes when they actually hit each other hard, just the way I do when people start fighting in films.

My problem with the anti-boxing movement is that it doesn't seem to have the courage to say why it really wants to ban boxing. The popular reason given for banning boxing is the protection of our children. But boxing has virtually the lowest fatality rate of any sport, with the possible exception of table tennis. In the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys Monitor of fatal accidents for the years 1984-85, issued last month, boxing doesn't even rate a mention. Riding and motor sports lead the list.

I couldn't find any statistical data on injuries, but the consensus seems to be that in terms of numbers of serious injuries, riding and rugby are probably the greatest offenders.

If the physical well-being of our children is the motivation for banning boxing, it seems inconsistent not to ban more physically dangerous sports. Of course, a person in his private life and society in its public life may make arbitrary choices, and there is no duty on society to ban all activities that cause death or injury once it decides to ban one. All the same, there is a general feeling that consistency has a moral component.

Some people would like to see protective headgear worn during boxing matches. This has been tried in a number of countries and generally abandoned because of the erroneous sense of security headgear gives. Boxers wearing this protection generally move their heads closer together, which is dangerous. Helmets give protection against facial abrasions, but little protection against the countercoup injury that causes brain damage when the head moves one way and the brain another.

Listening to the arguments against boxing, I was struck by the chord of Bloomsbury effeteness in it all. The real reason, I thought, as I listened to a friend explain that it was "wrong" to box, is that our brave new society doesn't like the idea of combat sports. Listen carefully to an anti-boxing enthusiast and within no time there will be a reference to the "uncivilized" nature of gladiatorial endeavours.

Uncivilized? Human history has been decided by physical combat. The fact that England is today a free country because some people were willing to engage in physical combat ought to speak for itself. If nature had been created in some different way, so that combat was not an essential element of our existence, the argument might have some force, but as it is, it is an argument *à rebours*.

Paul Carr's mother doesn't object to her son boxing, but she hasn't gone to watch him fight, either. I understand. A mother's natural instinct is protective and none of us would happily see our offspring punched in the face any more than we would be enthusiastic about them jumping out of a plane and not opening their parachute for 20 seconds, which I understand is the essence of sky-diving.

Would I be happy if a child of mine were to aim for the life of a professional boxer? No I would not. I'd prefer him to quietly compose sonatas, or study physics, but then I would also be most unhappy about a child of mine who wanted to be a government regulator or censor or join some similar profession.

Finally, I can't help thinking that there is a distinct strain of upper middle-class paternalism in all this. A feeling that the working classes should better themselves in ways closer to an elitist ethic.

But not all human beings are blessed with bookish or mathematical talents. Some people can taste excellence only through the skills combat requires. Let them. Combat is about more than dishing out punishment. It is about courage.

I watched Paul Carr as he practised. I don't know whether he will ever be a great boxer, but as I saw the discipline and concentration he voluntarily brought to his chosen field, I thought, there's a boy to be proud of. Box on.

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Letters, page 13

A remedy for doctors' disease

FIRST PERSON

Dr Michael O'Donnell

My father, a GP in a Yorkshire village, built his house overlooking a cemetery so he could have a daily reminder of his ultimate achievement. When I visited him, he would say, "Let's take a stroll amid my mistakes". And, as we walked between the headstones, he taught me lessons omitted from my formal education. Mortality, he reminded me, is an incurable disease which afflicts all patients and must be treated, not as an enemy to be fought on every front, but as an awkward ally who has occasionally to be appeased.

The lesson re-emerges in a book published this week, Glin Bennet's *The Wound and the Doctor* (Secker and Warburg, £17.50). It is a critical exploration of the ethos of our profession. Doctors, he concludes, use their power and status to distance themselves not just from their patients' feelings — and their own — but from the dreaded implications of mortality. The professional ethos also helps disguise the professional pursuit of power, though we sometimes catch a glimpse of what lies underneath, as we did during the harassment of Wendy Savage.

Dr Bennet catalogues the effects the ethos has on those who work under its protection: the high rate of suicide, the high incidence of drug addiction and alcoholism — the junior health minister, Mrs Edwina Currie, said on Monday that the number of people in the medical profession suffering from cirrhosis of the liver was three times the national average.

Young doctors protect themselves from the harsh impact of suffering with emotional barriers learnt from their elders. But the barriers don't just protect, they isolate. "Doctors seldom need any help with their thinking or rational functions," Bennet says, "since these have been developed to a high degree in their training. Where feeling and empathy are concerned, most doctors have a good deal to learn."

This lack of empathy leads to an authoritarian approach resented by the patients who, in increasing numbers, seek solace beyond the fringe of orthodoxy. Though they remain sceptical about "fringe" treatments, they finds its practitioners offer spiritual support unavailable from mainstream doctors.

If we accept Dr Bennet's diagnosis — and I do — the only treatment likely to succeed is a radical change in the ways in which we select medical students and train doctors. Medical schools now take high academic achievers but — while such people may help advance the frontiers of knowledge — I'm not convinced a person needs to be all that clever to heal the sick. It's a job which depends less on A-level ability than on common sense and an ability to learn from experience.

Medical schools could make a start by recruiting a higher proportion of mature students more likely to have suffered the "wounds" assumed by the maxim "Only the wounded physician heals". And doctors could spend more time teaching one another skills that might help them understand their patients.

"Holistic medicine" is a current fashion but an old idea. The best medicine has always been holistic, with doctors using every technical skill at their command to restore unhappy individuals to some sort of harmony with the world.

The object, as I learnt amid the headstones, is not to wage relentless war against mortality, but to seek to improve the quality of life of those who suffer from it. And that, as Dr Bennet makes all too plain, means abandoning many of our hierarchical attitudes.

Those attitudes are so pervasive that the good doctor himself is not immune to infection. Though he complains that women doctors still have to deny their womanliness if they wish to be accepted by the medical establishment, the pronouns he uses for "doctor" are invariably "he" or "his". It's a neat example of the way our brotherhood conditions even the most sceptical of its members.



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Read the early signs

TALKBACK

From C.L.S. Woolgan, Special Needs Tutor, Parkway, Gidea Park, Romford, Essex
Natalie Graham's article, "When eight was nearly too late", (Friday Page, March 27), may prove salutary if parents reading it are encouraged to believe that three is not too early.

Children begin to be aware of words even before this age. In many homes, even without the guidance of so called experts, they arrive at a stage of reading readiness through stories, rhymes and family games. Moreover, excellent pre-reading material can be purchased commercially. Advice is gladly given, by a host of state schools, on pre-school activities that will enable parents to give the right sort of help.

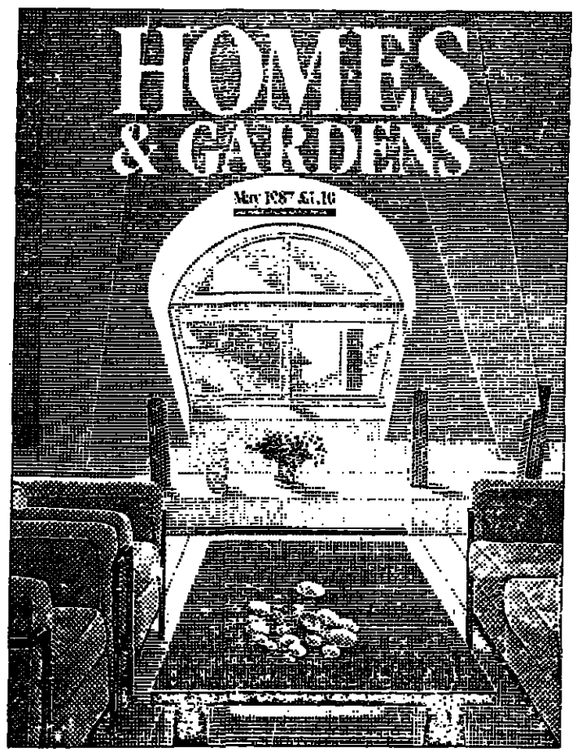
Private education, of itself, does not guarantee success. Some private schools, as encountered by Mrs Graham, play safe by insisting that certain standards of achievement have already been met before pupils are accepted. In short, confirmation seems to be required that the work has already been done for them!

From Dale Tipney, Frome Road, Southwick, Trowbridge, Wiltshire
My two sons, aged eight and six, attend the local state school. Both read very well, have a sound grasp of various mathematical concepts and even know the rudiments of grammar. Neither my children nor their school are unique — I have friends all over the country who could say the same. Admittedly, the school has a policy of "shared reading" (again not uncommon). This means that the child brings home reading to do every night with a parent. I am amazed that someone who professes such concern with her child's education as Ms Graham does has not been regularly reading with her daughter since she started school. She seems to think that children can be educated by simply writing cheques.

Simon Redmayne, Serjeant's Inn, Temple, London
Barbara Amiel ("A pound of flesh", April 3) seeks to reinforce her argument that Mrs Whitehead and not the Sterns should have been given custody of Melissa by suggesting that in contract law it is a principle that if things go sour, the parties should be put back in their initial position as far as possible. On the contrary, the courts strive to place the party not in breach in the same position as if the contract had been performed.

Mrs Amiel's moral arguments may, in some circumstances, affect the application of this principle. However, in the event, the court based its decision on what was best for Melissa.

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THE TIMES DIARY

Getting the message

Jocelyn Stevens, the newspaper executive turned director of the Royal College of Art, has been dealt a snub. British Design and Art Direction, representing the country's top designers, has just presented its gold award to Gert Dumbar, the RCA's professor of graphic design, whose contract Stevens has decided not to renew. Dumbar gets it for his innovative signposting in the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. What's more, two silver awards go to RCA students of Dumbar's — I reported last month that some were in the running. Edward Booth-Clibborn, the D & DA chairman, tells me the silver awards — the first won by students in the 25 years they have been presented — are "evidence of Dumbar's outstanding ability".

Members only

Sir Brian Rix was wondering yesterday what terrible fate might befall him after accepting an invitation by Labour MP Jack Ashley to address a rally of lobbyists for the disabled in Westminster Hall — part of the Palace of Westminster. Only after Ashley had called Sir Brian to his feet to fill a gap between MP speakers was it pointed out that, by custom, only MPs and peers are allowed to speak in the hall. Ashley told me he had few regrets about his slip: "If we end up in the Tower, I trust our supporters will supply us with champagne."

Poetic licence

Visiting the Edward Thomas exibition at the Imperial War Museum yesterday, Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, was surprised to be waylaid by the wife of poet Stephen Spender. It was not poetry she wanted to discuss; simply to thank him for cutting through the red tape over her driving licence. It turns out that she wrote to Baker, as her local MP when he represented Marylebone, after Swansea had kept her waiting for six months. A few phone calls from Baker — and the licence arrived next day.

Parole pad

Northern Ireland's newest potential des res, Armagh Jail, went on the market yesterday for £185,000. The 200-year-old prison closed a year ago when the province's few women prisoners were moved elsewhere. Planners insist its marble front must be retained and have ruled out conversion into a shopping centre, but it is hoped that a housing association will buy it. Raymond Murray, for 20 years the prison chaplain, says it could look "quite nice" when the bars have been removed.

BARRY FANTONI



'I understand he's put in his resignation six times'

Don't know?

The SDP leaves no avenue unexplored in its quest for the middle ground on Britain's nuclear defence policy. A circular signed by David Owen and addressed simply to "CND" asks, among other questions: "If you were planning Britain's defence strategy for the next 10-15 years, which approach would you be most inclined to follow?" CND was asked to tick one of three possible answers. A spokesman tells me it did not bother replying.

● **The latest entrant in the ratings war on Detroit TV: *Funny Fathers*, in which six Catholic priests swap anecdotes about presbytery life on subjects ranging from bats in the belfry to bishops' mitres.**

Not many mind

The prize for this week's least sensational press release must go to the Commons Scottish Affairs Committee. After listing its 13 members and their constituencies, the hand-out announces: "At its meeting this morning, the Committee, having considered various representations on the matter, decided not to conduct an inquiry into the proposal for a rail crossing of Dornoch Firth".

Benefat

An Aylesbury GP complains to me that the DHSS is encouraging the nation to run to fat. Last week a patient asked him for written confirmation that she had put on weight so the local DHSS could give her a grant to cover the cost of buying new clothes. On her own admission her obesity was due to overeating. "Do they have it in mind to make grants to those who feel the need to smoke, or to subidize alcoholic drinks?" the doctor asks.

PHS

The reluctant reformers

by George Schöpflin

The amount of Soviet attention devoted to Czechoslovakia in the last few months suggests that Mikhail Gorbachov attaches great significance to his much-delayed visit to Prague, though some might wonder why. After all, Czechoslovakia's economic and political stagnation is no worse than it has been for several years; in terms of launching reforms, Hungary might make a much better test-bed.

There are two probable reasons for Gorbachov's anxiety to see changes in Czechoslovakia. The event most closely associated with the suppression of reform in Eastern Europe was the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia and suppression of the Prague Spring. By going to Prague he is signalling that a new phase of Soviet-East European relations has begun.

Secondly, Gorbachov has already made it clear that he expects the East Europeans to become a vital supplier of technically sophisticated manufactured goods to the Soviet Union. Czechoslovakia is one of the most industrialized countries in the Warsaw Pact but, since the Dubcek era, its industrial base has shown little progress. So Gorbachov will tell his hosts to introduce the kind of economic changes that will help them to catch up.

The Czechoslovak leadership has evidently been given plenty of notice in this direction. This explains the ludicrous sight of President Husák solemnly standing up in the Spanish Hall of the presidential palace in Prague and intoning his conversion to "reform". If anyone has personified the most rigid rejection of reform in any shape or form in Eastern Europe, it is Husák. Indeed, during his 18 years in office, the very word has been banished from the country's political vocabulary.

But now reform is being pressed upon every East European government and even Husák, it seems, expects to be taken seriously when garbed in the new political fashion. His proposals so far, however, are decidely modest.

There will be some changes in the management of the economy and in general administration. One new law seeks to redefine the relationship between industrial managers and party officials and give enterprises greater autonomy. The work of central bodies — presumably the branch ministries and the planning office — would be redefined accordingly. On the political side, a magnifying glass is needed to make out any change. The party, says Husák, "should give greater attention to the political and psychological preparation for the changes".

In reality, this is barely paying lip-service to change. Neither party officials nor managers have any incentive to change their ways; during the Husák period, they have become exceedingly comfortable in the unimaginative way they have been able to run (and as good as ruin) the Czechoslovak economy.

In the short term, though, even this minimalist strategy might produce some benefits for Czechoslovakia. In Hungary, now the scene of a much more serious reform debate, the microscopic movements favoured in Czechoslovakia have long ago been tried and abandoned as insufficient. The Hungarians recognize that change means changes in the structure of power, rather than tinkering with the economy.

In this context, the proposals made public by Rezsö Nyers, the central committee member still remembered as the "father" of the 1960s reforms, are the most startling. Because the politically all-powerful Communist Party pervades the entire economy and can undermine the economic rationality of decision making, Nyers suggests that its power be taken away and transferred to the People's Patriotic Front.

The Front, as in other communist states, is the nominal umbrella organization for all social and political bodies — trades unions, the youth movement, and so on — other than the party itself. Further, the Front is responsible for organizing parliamentary elections. Nyers's solution, then, is straightforward: the Communist Party would become just one organization among many and its authority would depend on its ability to convince public opinion of the validity of its policies.

Not that the reformers in Hungary are having it entirely their own way. In response to Nyers, János Berecz, a conservative senior party figure, has said that although he is in favour of reform — who isn't? — the Communist Party must not lose its dominance. Berecz accepts that Hungary is a complex society, with a wide range of conflicting interests, but that cannot become a reason for the party yielding power.

That sums up Gorbachov's dilemma. The conservatives will not let go without a fight. They have had plenty of time to build up the experience of how to go about it, whether in Prague or Budapest — or, for that matter, Moscow.

The author is lecturer in politics at the London School of Economics.

Robin Oakley on the significance of next month's council elections

A real guide to opinion

On Sunday, May 10, Mrs Thatcher and her party chairman, Norman Tebbit, will retire to the study at Chequers bearing with them a minute analysis of the results of the local elections, conducted three days before on May 7. Almost certainly, their meeting will determine the timing of the next general election, just as it did in 1983 when the Prime Minister and Cecil Parkinson conducted the same exercise.

Opinion polls will help in the election decision. But two polls this week have shown what limited assistance they provide. A Harris poll for TV-am, taken from April 3 to 5, gave the Tories 43 per cent, Labour 30 and the Alliance 26. Repeated on a uniform swing at the election that would give the Conservatives a majority of 122.

A Marplan poll for *The Guardian*, taken from April 3 to 7, gave the Conservatives 38 per cent, Labour 32 and the Alliance 27. At first glance those figures also look encouraging for the government. But were they to be repeated at a general election Mrs Thatcher would lose some 70 seats and have an overall majority of no more than four.

The great advantage of May 7 is that real people will be voting in a real election. There will be many more of them than there are in opinion poll samples. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Tebbit will have the evidence provided by up to 30 million people voting for 12,000 council seats.

There are no contests in Scotland or in London. But there are elections for 369 district councils, with the most crucial contests being those for the whole council in 176 shire districts, involving 8,086 seats. In addition there are contests for the whole council in 30 Welsh districts (1,277 seats), and for a third of the council in 121 shire districts (1,819 seats), in 36 metropolitan districts (849 seats) and in six Welsh districts (78 seats).

The Conservatives hold some 5,000 of the seats at stake, Labour just under 3,000 and the SDP-Liberal Alliance 1,300.

Although national political factors will loom large, some local government issues will also be important. Attempts by the government since 1979 to bring council spending under control have produced 14 bills since 1979. Both Labour and the Alliance will insist that the government has been a brutally centralizing one, taking more control over the affairs of local authorities through block grants, expenditure targets and penalties, and rate-capping.

The government's plans to



scrap domestic rates and replace them with a community charge payable by all adults could figure in the campaigns. Since there are expected to be more financial losers than winners under such a system, there is danger of an anti-government reaction. The Conservatives fear, too, a fall-out from the recent row between the agriculture and environment ministries which managed to give the impression, wrongly, that the government was about to start concreting over Britain's farmlands. Farmers still feel bruised about the cut in quotas as the government, after many years of encouraging them to produce more, seeks to do its bit towards curbing the EEC food mountains.

There will be some nervousness on the Conservative side that traditional Tory voters will react against a rate support grant distribution that has done less for them and more for many Labour-controlled inner cities.

But it is the Alliance performance that will be the key factor in these local elections. The Alliance surge in recent opinion polls has done more to upset Tory calculations than anything else. What Mrs Thatcher needs to know above all before deciding on an early election is that the Alliance surge has bumped up against the ceiling. The latest couple of polls suggest that that stage may have been reached. But more solid evidence is required.

Significantly, the Tory leadership believes, the Conservatives have begun to advance lately in local government by-elections in councils where the Alliance either holds or shares power. A few years ago the Alliance had clean hands compared with the other parties, but its recent advances have meant that Alliance councillors, too, have had to take hard and unpopular decisions and face the consequences. They are beginning to look more like other politicians.

Whereas last year the Alliance advanced remorselessly in local government by-elections even when it was not performing well in national opinion polls, just lately it has been the Tories who have been doing better in local government than their national figures suggest. In March they picked up 35.5 per cent of the vote in council by-elections, to 31.5 for the Alliance and 30.4 for Labour. In the five months from last May to September the Tories were running third in such contests.

The Tories admit that they will lose seats overall on May 7. They are defending seats last contested in 1983, when they were on a post-Falklands high and achieved the rare phenomenon of a swing to the government of the day. But they believe that they could wrest Nottingham from Labour, which clings on by a three-seat majority. They are also bending every effort to hang on to Solihull, the last metropolitan authority in Conservative hands. They have hopes in Brighton in the south, and in Sefton, Trafford and Wirral in the north-west.

The Alliance is confidently forecasting a gain of at least 400 seats overall. It expects to win control of Liverpool city council, where the Liberals are temporarily in charge following the disqualification of many Labour councillors, and of Hastings, Cheltenham, Eastleigh, St Albans, South Somerset, Congleton, Southend and Ryedale.

Labour has made no public claims, but is expecting to win control of at least a further five councils.

When the results have been analysed, Mrs Thatcher will either have to decide on June, or stand the nation down from election fever for a few months. The difficulty is that, whatever the analysis says about the potential Tory vote, any significant Alliance advance on May 7 could give the Liberals and the SDP another boost, which would take them into a June contest with increased credibility.

May 7 will help Mrs Thatcher in her lonely choice. But it will not take all the guesswork and gamble out of the decision.

Gains and losses in local government by-elections since 1983 general election

	Won	Held	Gained	Lost	Net
Conservative	513	420	93	309	-216
Labour	468	368	100	80	+20
Alliance	462	140	322	51	+271
Independent	54	32	22	95	-73
Others	12	4	8	10	-2

Figures cover by-elections in county, regional, London borough, metropolitan and non-metropolitan district councils up to April 2, 1987, in England, Wales and Scotland

By-election results since 1986 local government elections

	Won	Held	Gained	Lost	Net
Conservative	102	78	24	46	-22
Labour	79	65	14	17	-3
Alliance	79	24	55	13	+42
Independent	10	7	3	19	-16
Others	1	-	1	2	-1

Why royalty must stay nationalized

Mrs Thatcher would presumably approve heartily of a suggestion by the Prince of Wales in a forthcoming book that the Royal Family should go the way of British Gas, Rolls-Royce and certain local authority dustbin collections. The Prince wants himself, his mother and their immediate relatives to be privatized.

What he proposes is that the Royal Family should give up the Civil List — their annual expenses allowance from the Treasury — and live entirely off the income from the Crown estates. He apparently feels that if they have to look to the state for everything, they become puppets and prisoners, like the Japanese royal family who cannot even go on holiday without asking Parliament.

Clearly the Prince has been dwelling yet again on the life and times of his favourite forebear, King George III, who was persuaded in 1760 to surrender most of the Crown lands to Parliament in return for a fixed annual allowance, the origin of the present-day Civil List.

Parliament had good reason for doing so. From a peak during the 15th century, when Edward IV owned as much as one fifth of England's land area, the vast Crown landholding was gradually eroded, given away or sold off by a succession of spendthrift monarchs until, by the beginning of the 18th century, the net revenue had fallen to a paltry £6,000 a year.

Today the Crown Estate Commissioners are among Britain's largest landlords, owning 177,000 acres of agricultural land in England and 88,000 acres in Scotland, together with a portfolio of prime London sites that include Trafalgar Square and large blocks of Regent Street, St James's, Jermyn Street and Carlton House Terrace. Annual income is about £40 million, yielding a net profit of about £20 million which is handed over to the Treasury.

The Crown Estate occupies a curious constitutional position; it is neither fully state property nor yet the private property of the monarch. Traditionally the lands are surrended by the monarch to Parliament at the beginning of each reign, supposedly as part of the arrangements for the Civil List, which is set at £5.6 million for the current year.

George III was allowed to keep two major estates, the Duchies of Cornwall and Lancaster. The Prince of Wales is of course already part-privatized, taking all his personal income of about £750,000 a year from the Duchy of Cornwall, and surrendering one-quarter of its net income, currently about £250,000 a year, to the Treasury in lieu of income tax.

The Duchy of Lancaster provides the Privy Purse, in effect a personal income for the Queen, now about £1.3 million a year.

From her Lancaster revenues the Queen refunds to the Treasury the Civil List payments for the Dukes of Kent and Gloucester and Princess Alexandra, reducing this year's true Treasury bill for the Civil List to £5.2 million.

But the Civil List is a fraction of the true cost of monarchy, and covers only immediate operational costs like office expenses and the salaries of Palace staff. The real annual cost is nearer £40 million when a variety of other items tucked into the defence and environment budgets are included; providing the Queen's Flight, operating the royal yacht Britannia, and maintaining the castles and palaces of Windsor, Buckingham and Holyrood, for example.

In the past year the cost of the monarchy has doubled to about £80 million because of a one-off purchase of two new HS 146 aircraft for the Queen's Flight and a major refit for Britannia. It will be back again to £40 million for the present year.

The Prince of Wales is no doubt mindful of the possibility that some future government less well disposed towards the Crown than the present one might gather all those extraneous costs together in order to exercise greater control. Labour MPs have in the past occasionally floated the idea of a Government Department of the Crown for that very purpose, but it has never found much favour.

The British Royal Family are puppets and prisoners only to the extent that it is an integral part of the unwritten constitution, developed over several centuries, that the Crown has little direct power but a great deal of indirect influence.

Going private is unlikely to change that; indeed it is more likely to make the Crown more remote and less relevant, simply by turning the sovereign into just another landowner and loosening the bonds between Crown, Parliament and people which, although complex and vague, are an essential part of the intertwining constitutional structure.

Besides, if King Charles III needs a new aeroplane, or the Palace needs reroofing, or there is any other exceptional item of expenditure beyond the means of his estates, he will still have to ask the government of the day for the money. His subjects, it must be presumed, would not wish him to feel he had to skimp to balance the books of a cut-price private crown.

Alan Hamilton

John Rae

Leading with their heads

In all our agonizing over the failings of the education system there has been little discussion of the quality of leadership in our schools. It is assumed that if we get the conditions right, bad schools will become good ones. The experience of the independent sector should dispel that illusion. Famous schools with all the advantages of generous resources, well-motivated pupils and strong parental support have nevertheless declined sharply when the head was weak or uninspiring.

Now ministers are considering a national staff college for heads and a flying squad of 500 teachers, chosen for "outstanding leadership qualities", who will be drafted into problem schools on a short-term basis. The idea of a pedagogical Sweeney with the headmaster of Eton swooping on an unsuspecting school in Brent has distinct possibilities. I think I shall volunteer. What fun to turn a school upside down and then get out before the staff have time to organize a petition demanding your removal.

But as a practical proposition, the idea strikes me as unconvincing, not least because the belief that there are 500 headteachers in the country with "outstanding leadership qualities" is remarkably optimistic.

The lack of high calibre headteachers, particularly in secondary schools, is one of the least publicized causes of our educational malaise. I know that heads of comprehensive schools face problems that would pole-axe most heads in the independent sector. But there are startling differences in the performance of individual comprehensive schools, and this must have something to do with the quality of leadership.

Sister Genevieve of the Order of St Vincent de Paul is principal of one of the largest maintained schools in the United Kingdom. St Louise's is an all-girls comprehensive, 2,380 strong, in the heart of nationalist Belfast on the Falls Road, within a stone's throw of Andersonstown police station and Milltown cemetery, with its monuments to the "war dead" of the republican cause.

Most of its pupils come from the sort of deprived inner-city environment, including the notorious Divis Flats, that in London or Liverpool would be regarded as an excuse for a school's poor performance and low morale. Yet when I visited St Louise's recently I knew at once that I was in a very good school. The whole place had a spring in its step. Pupils and teachers were lively, smart and courteous. They were proud of their school: no graffiti; no sour faces; virtually no truancy. Eighty-five per cent of the girls stay on in the open access sixth form; the figure for ILEA comprehensives is 32 per cent.

The usual explanation for bad inner-city comprehensives is the lack of resources and the disadvantaged background of the pupils. But if that is the whole truth, how is it possible to run a highly successful school in one deprived area but not another?

Sister Genevieve explains it in terms of attitudes and policies: the Vincentian ideal of respecting the dignity of every individual; the close family and community ties; equal pride in all examination results, whether in typing or higher mathematics. But attitudes and policies do not appear by accident. Someone has to set the goals and inspire the community to achieve them.

Precisely what it is that distinguishes a successful head from the run of the mill is not always easy to identify. The first two headmasters I served under illustrate the point. One was a powerful autocrat who delegated little and had his finger on every aspect of the school's life. He was a monarch of the old regime and had been known to interview young masters from the back of a horse. The other was unassuming, almost at times unnoticed. He delegated everything he could and appeared to have so little interest in educational issues that he read *The Times* during meetings of the Headmasters Conference.

They could hardly have been more different: yet both presided over a golden age in the school's history. Sister Genevieve is too immersed in everyday realities to think about a golden age but there is no doubt that, under her own brand of leadership, her school flourishes.

She does not run her school from the back of a horse or from behind *The Times*. She is tough, shrewd and passionate. She delegates *and* knows what is going on. She is not overawed by the problems on her doorstep: in an area of high unemployment she has been remarkably successful in seeing that her pupils find jobs when they leave school: and, although an Irish nationalist, she has the courage and good sense to tell the IRA to keep its distance.

How can three headteachers, so different in character and style, achieve the same end — a lively, happy and successful school? The answer must lie in their ability to inspire and motivate others.

Sister Genevieve brings out the best in teachers and pupils. And that, I recall, was what the two headmasters had in common. They inspired in me, as a young master, the desire to do well, to earn their respect and win their praise.

Can heads be taught how to motivate others? I think it is a gift. Management training in a staff college may help to develop it or compensate for its absence but cannot conjure it out of the air. A staff college would certainly raise the quality of leadership, but its motto should be the warning carved over the door of a Victorian school: "What nature hath withheld, this institution cannot supply".

The author, formerly headmaster of Westminster School, is now Director of the Laura Ashley Foundation.

Henry Stanhope

A task force to Tokyo

Those who are examining the opinion polls for signs of the general election are likely to do so in vain. What they really should be looking at is the progress of the trade war with Japan.

Mrs Thatcher has clearly no more faith in the opinion polls than I have. My family has in recent months pledged its support to the Conservative Party, the Labour Party, the Liberal Party and Seventh-day Adventists. We would have done no less for the Social Democrats had they called. The best time to do so is on a Saturday afternoon during a rugby international on television (an opportunity temporarily lost, I'm afraid), when our affirmative is likely to be swift and unequivocal. The Prime Minister understands this very well.

The Japanese are a very different matter. For the past 20 years we have bought our cameras, watches, televisions, radios, record-players, cars, kitchen knives, fibre-tip pens and very much else besides, from Nippon.

The traffic has not been entirely one-way. They have in turn bought our factories, large houses, restaurants, land, a golf course and at least one school, and now our paintings and the Duchess of Windsor's jewellery.

Some 22,000 of them now live in Britain, importing their *modus operandi* to our companies and borrowing our accents in return. There are Japanese children in South Wales who sound like Harry Secombe. (Did you know, incidentally, that the late Indira Gandhi once said that she felt more at home in Wales than anywhere else in Britain, because Welshmen and Indians spoke English with the same kind of accent?)

The point I am making though is that we have, until now, accepted the position with equanimity, regarding the incoming tide with the sang-froid that we learnt from Canute. "If you can't beat them, join them" has been the philosophy underlying our approach to Japanese imperialism.

We have actually pleaded with them to come here, subsidizing their factories to ensure that they do. Trade unionists who would rather have joined the Tolpuddle Martyrs than do what they are told by British managers have gone to their keep fit classes, worn their company blazers and even agreed to eat in the same canteen as the general manager. It is only now, when West has got used to meeting East in defiance of Rudyard Kipling, that the Prime Minister has turned, like Boudicca, on her overlords. Why should this be?

The simplest explanation is that enough has proved enough. The lion has eventually tired of having his tail tweaked by all these neat little men in their navy blue pinstripes and decided it was time to bare its teeth at them. The final indignity, according to this argument, was when they moved into the City — which of course had tempted fate by loosening its old school tie. I always knew no good would come of it. The effect has been that of removing one's mosquito net in the jungle, thus exposing oneself to a lot of foreign bodies who are no respecters of Harrow men.

But I have another explanation. What if Mrs Thatcher is playing for the Japanese Factor? A war in which no one gets hurt, apart perhaps from the odd junior minister, flung like a sacrificial lamb upon the altar of Mammon, has an appeal which few political advisers could resist. Not only does it divert the voters' eyes from the problems that are piling up at home, but it places all the blame upon Japan. Let Mr Nakasone bear the brunt.

The Prime Minister does not even have to win it. If M Chirac, Chancellor Kohl or President Reagan declared war, his electorate would demand a total victory. In Britain it is defeat in which we glory. Give or take a few football supporters from the Stretford End at Manchester, we are a nation of extremely gallant losers.

All that the government needs to do is to keep in there and not let go. If it can fight the good fight, it may hold on to eternal life — as St Paul more or less put it to the Thessalonians. The mistake that the Thessalonians made was to pay too much attention to the opinion polls . . .

TIMES PAST
THE TIMES
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LABOUR'S IRISH JIG

Mr Peter Archer, Labour's principal spokesman on Northern Ireland, yesterday slipped a new version of the party's policy into the public domain. It has the hallmarks of an ingenious compromise which achieves the remarkable feat of putting inside the same agreed policy two apparently irreconcilable aims. It is work of a master craftsman in the Wilsonian mould.

As the left of the party has long enjoyed pointing out, Labour's policy has for years suffered from a logical inconsistency. It advocated the ultimate reunification of the island but allowed that this could only take place with the consent of the unionist majority in Northern Ireland. From this position, the present Labour leadership has supported the Anglo-Irish Agreement and Mr Kinnock has been a tough rhetorical opponent of Provisional Sinn Fein.

The left has insisted, however, that since unionist consent was plainly not forthcoming and never likely to be, the policy was a contradiction. The commitment to unification was hypocritical and easy to make since no Labour government was likely to have to act on it. This argument has been bubbling gently inside a joint study group from the parliamentary party and the party's national executive since not long after the last election.

Earlier this year, the left suggested that the commitment to seek unionist consent be altered to a search for a "significant degree of consent". To judge by the text of yesterday's announcement, Mr Archer and his front bench colleagues seem to have stifled this. But they have won their victory only by endorsing a wording which sounds more aggressive towards unionism than previous formulations.

The party leadership has two purposes which need to be spliced together. It wishes, honourably, to recognise and support the unionist right to constitutional self-determination as enshrined in laws upheld by several past Labour governments. It is supported in this by party supporters drawn from the protestant and unionist community in Northern Ireland. But it also has to placate those on the left who more or less openly back Provisional Sinn Fein; the central demand of that group is for a British withdrawal from the north which bypasses unionist objections.

As if this was not enough, Mr Archer and his party leader have two subsidiary aims. They need a policy which allows them to operate the Hillborough Agreement if they form a government. But they also need to keep lines open to the unionist MPs, who might just hold the balance in a hung parliament.

Mr Archer's deputy, Mr Stuart Bell, made a speech recently which suggested some concessions to unionist concerns. But otherwise the front bench team has chosen to respond to the most immediate threat with a document phrased to suggest that as little notice as possible will be taken of unionist objections.

Two of Mr Archer's statements bear decoding. He said yesterday: "the fact that there will be consent before there is any constitutional transformation does not mean there is a veto over political discussions and political initiatives and experiments." This is presumably to be taken by the left and its nationalist and republican allies as meaning: "reunification will proceed as discreetly as possible until such time as unionists and everyone else come to realise that its a *fait accompli*". The words do not have to mean this, but they are open to that interpretation.

Mr Archer also said to unionists: "whether you regard this as a step down the road to unification you need not be afraid that if you get further down the road that there will be an open gate at the end of it." In other words: "when we come down to it we wil not allow the *fait accompli* to force you into something you do not want." Unionists are left to judge the credibility of that assurance in the light of the other assertion quoted above.

On one level, the Labour statement is shrewd public politics. There is widespread public disenchantment with unionism on the mainland. Labour's travails in committee need, however to be kept in proportion — and not just because the party's chances of being in government next time do not look rosy.

Taken into government, the policy outlined yesterday would not force a Labour cabinet to behave any differently from its predecessors. It would be able to carry on the established lines of British policy which have been shared by successive governments since the early 1970s and which are now dominated by the existence of the Hillsborough Agreement.

Future governments will over the next few years have to take major decisions, some of which can already be listed. There may have to be action against Provisional Sinn Fein. Decisions on Diplock courts await reconsideration, as do further moves to encourage unionist acceptance of the the Agreement. But all of those items are placed on the agenda by the history of the last few years and not by the laboured deliberations of party caucuses.

FROM WHERE A FUTURE TASK FORCE?

Five years ago the Falklands Task Force set sail for the South Atlantic on an operation whose success depended heavily on Britain's shipyards and its mercantile marine. The speed and efficiency with which cruise liners and container ships were converted for the expedition remains a remarkable testament to the industry and skills of our workshops and repair yards.

On today's Spectrum page we record the steep decline since then. The number of British owned and registered merchantmen has been almost halved, while in 1986 the total tonnage went down by nearly one-third. According to one recent estimate, the number of ships could be down to below 100 in less than 10 years' time if the decline continues at its present rate.

It is not so much that ships have been scrapped. The most characteristic trend in recent years has been the foreign registration of British hulls, enabling owners to hire cheaper foreign labour.

It is easy to see why they do so. Competition is fierce in an over-subscribed and over-subsidized industry, and owners have to cut costs or go to the wall. But, aside from the problems of British industry, there are important implications for defence. The bulk of the logistic responsibility during the Falklands war, 8,000 miles from home and 4,000 miles from the nearest friendly port, was borne by the Merchant Navy for the simple reason that the Royal Navy could not manage on its own.

For many years the strength of the Royal Navy has been calculated and planned on the assumption that in wartime, civilian ships could be requisitioned for Queen and country. Channel ferries to convey troops and their equipment, other cargo ships for long-haul operations, deep sea trawlers to be converted into minehunters and even container ships which could be used as flat-top carriers, all form part of Whitehall's contingency planning in the event of national crisis.

Two years ago, however, the Ministry of Defence sounded the alarm bells after watching one vessel after another drop out of the merchant fleet — together with their crews. Last year's Defence White Paper sounded a slightly less discouraging note. A review of the latest position indicated that there were still enough ships left to undertake naval tasks should war break out again — the exception being the worrying shortage of deep sea trawlers for countermeasures against mines.

But this is to assume that the decline is not to continue at the present steep rate — or indeed to grow worse. It is also to assume that, if war broke out, the ships would be where they were wanted. If a major war occurred, one which placed far higher demands on our resources than did the Falklands campaign, the Government would need ships and trained crews on hand at once. There would be little advantage in having a ship in the Pacific if it were needed to work the Eastern Atlantic in a hurry. Moreover, the crews would ideally be British crews.

The Government should address the problem of our merchant fleet's decline as a matter of some priority. There is an urgent need to explore ways in which the business of staying in British shipping could be made more attractive to owners and their crews.

THE ROAD TO FORGIVENESS

President Herzog was voicing a very general Jewish sentiment when he declared at the start of his state visit to West Germany that Israel — and indeed the whole Jewish *diaspora* — could neither forgive Germany nor forget the Nazi Holocaust. To Christians, however, nurtured in a tradition which regards loving and forgiving one's enemies as a mark of true religious grace, it seemed a sharp saying. It seems no less sharp five days later, as President Herzog's visit draws to a close.

Yet it is worth looking a little more closely at the concept of forgiveness outside the Christian tradition. When Jews talk about not forgiving Germany, as they still do despite the passing of the years, they appear to mean something other than taking revenge. It should be noted that President Herzog also described his visit to West Germany as a step on the long road towards reconciliation. Therein lies the missing clue. For him forgiveness lies at the end of that road, not at the start of it.

Jews are generally alarmed and irritated when urged to "forgive and forget", to act as if the Holocaust never really happened. To some of them, that is tantamount to acceptance of the revisionist history of the Nazi period, some of it inspired by anti-Jewish malice, which maintains that the Holocaust never really happened. It did happen; and non-Jews owe Jews an effort of imagination to understand what it feels like to know that it did.

The Nazi regime embarked on an organized political effort remove an entire race from humanity, by dehumanization and death. It is a uniquely horrible chapter in mankind's history, and it has inflicted on Jews a unique spiritual scar.

Forgiveness belongs in the moral lexicon of justice under the category of mercy. Justice may require that every disturbance of the moral equilibrium be righted. Mercy is the remitting of some of the punishment due, while nevertheless restoring the balance. But it has to be freely given. It is not a right; it is the prerogative of the wronged, though the State may exercise it on their behalf.

Justice is what is due, and the unmerciful should not be criticized for claiming what is theirs. Furthermore, the victims of the Holocaust have no voice with which to grant their absolution. Who can speak for them? The President of Israel does not appear to believe that the State of Israel has that mandate, or at least not at present.

His refusal to forgive stands, therefore, as a sign to mankind that the wrong done to the victims of Nazi persecution has neither been righted nor pardoned, that the moral balance has not been restored, that justice is still due. It is a charge against the German people of continuing collective guilt. It attributes to Germany and to things German a moral will which has not been purged.

It is a bravely unsentimental saying, and those who say it cannot expect immediate comprehension. Any German who takes it personally, especially any who had no individual complicity in the acts of the Nazi regime, will find it unjust or even insulting. But that is not the appropriate response.

What is being said is not a cry for vengeance from the heart of the Jewish people, but a cry of fear — fear that the rest of mankind is ready to brush aside the enormity of what occurred, and that forgiveness and forgetfulness may turn into a prelude to renewal of the horror. The end of the road of reconciliation will be when it is beyond doubt — and beyond doubt in the mind of the Jewish people — that it can never happen again.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fighting injuries in the ring

From Professor Bryan Jennett
Sir, Your leader (April 4) on schoolboy boxing is welcome. However, it is not so that the way to stop brain damage is compulsory protective headgear.

Headguards give some protection against cuts on the forehead and might reduce eye injuries. But what damages the brain is rapid movement of the head which causes shearing forces to rupture nerve fibres and blood vessels. Such injuries have been reproduced experimentally by accelerating the head without any blow being struck.

In 1960 a middleweight champion at the University of Wisconsin died of a brain haemorrhage after an amateur fight wearing headgear. His death led to the banning of boxing as an intercollegiate sport in America. Let the arguments about boxing proceed — but not on the basis that brain damage can be so readily prevented. The only way to stop brain damage from boxing is to stop boxing.
Yours faithfully,
BRYAN JENNETT,
University of Glasgow,
Department of Neurosurgery,
Institute of Neurological Sciences,
The Southern General Hospital,
Glasgow.
April 7.

From Mr Guy du Parc Braham
Sir, You question, by implication, the motives of the Amateur Boxing Association in its failure to introduce protective headgear. The introduction of compulsory headguards would serve only to appease public opinion without, in fact, providing the necessary protection to the head which you so vehemently claim.

Headguards are claustrophobic, to the severe detriment of the boxer's senses. They impair vision, increase the size of the target area and increase the weight of the head. The boxer is thus less able to spot the incoming blow and less able to avoid it when he does.

Although the headguard may well lessen the effect of any one blow it leaves the boxer liable to take so many more punches than he had before that the net damage with a headguard is considerably greater than without.

A far preferable and effective form of protection is a bigger pair of gloves. They provide a larger protective area to the face and cause the hands of the boxer to move that much slower.

The change from match gloves (10oz) to sparring gloves (18oz), for instance, is so marked that one feels almost as though one is fighting with pillows. Boxing would consequently become much more a test of skill than a determination of which man is the bigger thug.
Yours faithfully,
GUY du PARC BRAHAM
(Captain, Cambridge, University Amateur Boxing Club),
Pembroke College, Cambridge.

From Mr Russell Wood
Sir, I disagree profoundly with your leading article advocating the abolition of schoolboy boxing. Schoolboy boxing suffers from none of the disadvantages and potential abuses of professional boxing in that the competitors are carefully matched in accordance with age and weight; and there is a well-established tradition of fights being stopped immediately one of the competitors establishes an overwhelming superiority.

Given these facts and traditions, schoolboy boxing has done an inordinate amount of good in not only teaching schoolboys the invaluable art of self-defence, but also, more important, the benefits of self control in times of crisis.

Also it has afforded small boys, such as I was myself, the opportunity to excel at a sport where lack of size was not a disadvantage, to attain a greater degree of co-ordination of mind and body.

Unless it is to be laid down that any sport in which a competitor has died is to be abolished, I can see no justification for the abolition of schoolboy boxing, in spite of the recent tragic death of a young competitor.

Unlike professional, and even amateur, boxing the risk of brain damage being sustained through subjection to serious punishment in the ring over a period of years does not apply to schoolboy boxing.
Yours truly,
RUSSELL WOOD,
The White Cottage,
Chigwell Village, Essex.

From Mr A. Sandman
Sir, You tell us that "Banning schoolboy boxing would begin the process which would cause adult boxing to wither and die".

Then why, Sir, do you, pander to those who support boxing by publishing *enthusiastic* reports with photographs after a big fight?
Yours faithfully,
A. SANDMAN,
11 Sharpleshall Street, NW1.

Aids and pregnancy

From Mr C. N. Hudson
Sir, Your leading article, "Aids testing in pregnancy" (March 25), covers features common to many different tests in pregnancy. It is important to make clear the distinction between routine testing and compulsory testing.

The latter would be quite foreign to current practice in antenatal care. Every woman has the right to decline to be tested for anything and this is exercised from time to time in those situations where a positive test might be associated with a recommendation for termination (e.g., Down's Syndrome).

The cost effectiveness of a number of tests such as those for syphilis may be challenged, but not to have offered such a test could be regarded as negligent.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, in association with representatives from sister professional bodies, is examining the impact of Aids on all aspects of maternity care and reproductive medicine. HIV (human immuno-deficiency virus) status in pregnancy is unique among these, in so far as it is the only situation where the knowledge of a positive blood test in a symptomless individual could potentially be of benefit to her as well as enabling her to make decisions about her unborn child.

More information is needed to assess the impact of pregnancy on the progression of Aids-related conditions.
Yours faithfully,
C. N. HUDSON, Chairman, Sub-Committee on Problems of Aids in Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists,
27 Sussex Place,
Regent's Park, NW1.
March 26.

Ferry disaster

From Mr David Crouch, MP for Canterbury (Conservative)
Sir, The article by your Transport Correspondent (April 3) on the public inquiry into the Zeebrugge disaster raises some very disturbing thoughts.

I think that everyone is agreed that operation procedures of these vessels have got to be re-examined and much stricter application of these procedures and their supervision ensured.

The most worrying comment by your correspondent is the suggestion that supporters of these vessels argue that "recommendations for drastic design changes could lead to higher fares, slower turn-round, damage to cross-Channel trade, and much lower profits".

Is the question of higher fares and lower profits to be taken into account when considering the safety of people at sea?

As your correspondent states with fearful warning, Mr Justice Sheen "will have the awful responsibility of knowing that if he gets the safety factors wrong the next disaster could be on the scale of the Titanic".

It is valuable that we have had this advice about the relationship of profits and safety at the outset of this important inquiry.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID CROUCH,
House of Commons.

Bat and Balkans

From Dr T. J. Winnifrith and Mr F. E. B. Witts
Sir, We have the honour to report that a game of cricket was played at Balldran in Albania on Monday, April 6. Scores: British Academics XI 36; British Bankers XI 31.

Judging by the keen interest in the game displayed by the Albanian spectators, we hope that next year a combined team of town and gown may play an Albanian XI.
Yours faithfully,
T. J. WINNIFRITH
(Captain of the Academics),
FRANCIS WITTS
(Captain of the Bankers),
Hotel Shkoder,
Shkoder,
Albania.
April 7.

Garden marketing

From Professor Alan Peacock, FBA
Sir, Let me assure Lord Gibson (March 20) that my invited article, "Pruning of the Garden" (not my title) was written (March 14) in a purely personal capacity, a fact which was unfortunately omitted.

Wynne Godley (April 1) naughtily misrepresents me. My doubt about the supposed uncovenanted benefits supplied to the community by Covent Garden applied to *separate* Government funding of that institution.

He should also know better than to accuse me of some sort of cultural favouritism. While it may not be without interest that until recently the Arts Council subsidy to Covent Garden Opera and Ballet was almost exactly the same amount as that made available to the Scottish Arts Council, of which I am chairman, to cover all art forms in Scotland, I have stated publicly that I consider that the Arts Council allocation for Scotland for 1987-99 is fair and reasonable.
Yours faithfully,
ALAN PEACOCK,
8 Gilmour Road, Edinburgh.

Science in peril

From Professor J. P. Connerade
Sir, The editorial, "The quest for the best" (March 29), argues that University Grants Committee research funds should be given to research councils, "which would have a direct responsibility to see that only the best received the cash". The arguments are convincing, until one is told, "Let the most excellent centres win".

How does one judge the excellence of a centre? Presumably, by the excellence of the ideas pursued there rather than by the amount of money already being spent. Unfortunately, on the same day, I received a communication from the Science and Engineering Research Council which described a new strategy in which groupings of scientists appear to have some kind of priority over individuals. The SERC "will no longer accept research grant applications for less than £25,000".

Of course, such provisions are much more convenient to administer, and of course there are areas of science in which £25,000 is an inadequate sum. I am myself a member of a grouping of scientists, and of course I would not argue against the merits of collaboration. However, there must be specific scientific reasons for it.

There may well be a case for transferring funds from the UGC to research councils, but the outcome must surely place even greater responsibility on the peer review system to ensure that funds are properly invested.

We are constantly (and rightly) reminded of the importance of small businesses to the vitality of the economy. If competition between ideas begins to take account of the size of centres in which they are practised, then the rules of the free market are in reality being altered. I venture to suggest that the best *man* may no longer win.
Yours faithfully,
J. P. CONNERADE (Member, Executive Committee, Save British Science),
76 Granville Road, SW18.
March 30.

Where ignorance spells trouble

From Dr Geoffrey Alderman
Sir, I have acted for many years as an A-level history examiner, most recently as a chief examiner for modern British history. A significant proportion of the scripts that come to me make very depressing reading. Many candidates are clearly unable not merely to spell, but to reproduce accurately words that appear on the question paper ("Disraeli" seems to cause particular difficulty).

More distressing still is the widespread inability to construct an essay that has an introduction, a series of logical arguments, and a conclusion; many candidates adopt a "machine-gun" approach, firing off their factual knowledge in all directions in the hope that some pieces of information will prove relevant.

I realise that shortcomings such as these may occur through no fault of the teachers, who must, perforce, make do with the pupils presented to them. But what is one to make of the teacher of a candidate specialising in the 19th and early 20th centuries who, at the end of a poor answer to the question, "Why did Britain make an alliance with Japan in 1902?", told the examiner that it was not until he had read the question that he realised there had been an Anglo-Japanese alliance in 1902?

And what is one to make of the teacher who complained that a question on the Unionist governments of 1886-1905 was unfair because it was not "main line"?
Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY ALDERMAN,
Wit's End,
72 Colindeep Lane, NW9.
April 6.

From Dr F. E. S. Hatfield
Sir, John Clare's comments (April 4) on the report of the Oxford University Delegacy of Local Examinations reveals once again the intellectual elitism which dominates English education. Surely, in this era of rationalisation, it is high time our spelling was rationalised.

Our children are subject to many wasted hours of school time by the efforts of teachers to teach them to master the irrationalities of our system of communication in writing. Surely, the ability to communicate is much more important than the details of the vehicle used for that communication.

How many of our children are inhibited from ever expressing themselves in writing by their inability to spell and the resulting criticism which this evokes?
Yours faithfully,
F. E. S. HATFIELD,
212 High Street, Ongar, Essex.

From Mr Roger W. Wallbank
Sir, Less hospitals. Less beds. Less staff. Looks like Labour couldn't care less about English.
Yours faithfully,
ROGER W. WALLBANK,
107 Selly Park Road, Birmingham.

Archbishop's views

From Mr R. N. G. Stone
Sir, If everyone held the views expressed by Dr Runcie (Spectrum, March 30), the world would, I am sure, be a thoroughly decent, civilised place. But that does not make his views correct. In particular I refer to his belief in God and his opposition to determinism.

Rather than defend these positions by producing evidence and arguments in favour of their being true, he justifies them by pointing out both the inadequacy, selfishness or viciousness of those who disagree with him and the moral energy of those on his side. Again, when discussing the claims of absolute and relative standards, his criterion is purely pragmatic.

Such considerations, of course, have no bearing whatever on the truth of any of these propositions. In fact they seem to verge on dishonesty, as if Dr Runcie were condoning Plato's policy of the "noble lie": Teach people to believe that proposition; it may not be true, but they'll behave much better for believing it.

I wonder if that is what Cardinal Hume meant by "the loss of truth".
Yours faithfully,
R. N. G. STONE,
92 Foxwell Street,
Worcester.
April 2.

Fertility rites?

From Dr Robin P. G. Gates
Sir, Spring is here and already the hedgerows are a riot of colour with the giant *Fertiliser bag* reigning supreme.

In my rambles this weekend I found large quantities of the deep blue variety "Nitram" (ICI, Billingham), the silver and black "Nitrashell" (UKF, Chester), the white and blue "Extra Grass" and "Double Season PK" (both Norsk Hydro, Ipswich) and two code-numbered pale blue varieties "20 - 10 - 10" and "0 - 24 - 24" (both Seabright, Barking). The hardy perennial *Chemical drum* is also thriving.

Of course the farmer has done the dirty work and not the manufacturers cited above, but I do urge them to add these words to their products: "Please dispose of this packaging thoughtfully".
Yours faithfully,
ROBIN P. G. GATES,
66 Deeside Avenue,
Fishbourne,
Chichester, West Sussex.
March 29.

ON THIS DAY

APRIL 10 1946

This celebrated naval court-martial, arising out of events that took place almost six years before, had to await the officers' return at the end of the war. Lieutenant-Commander R. P. Lonsdale, the submarine's captain, was also honourably acquitted.

NAVAL OFFICER ACQUITTED

ORDEAL OF CRIPPLED SUBMARINE

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT
PORTSMOUTH, April 9

Lieutenant Trevor Agar Beet, R.N., was honourably acquitted at a naval court-martial here to-day on charges of failing to take steps to ensure the sinking of H.M. submarine Seal when it appeared possible that she might fall into the hands of the enemy, and of failing to ensure the sinking of the Seal to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy after the command of the submarine had devolved upon him.

Captain R.F.Elkins, R.N., prosecuted, and Commander J. Cowell, R.N., acted as prisoner's friend.

The circumstantial letter read by Captain (S) A.J.Wheeler, Deputy Judge Advocate of the Fleet, stated that on May 4, 1940, at about 2.25 am while minelaying in the Kattegat the Seal was attacked by enemy aircraft about 10 miles north of the Skaw and suffered minor damage. She dived, laid her mines and set course for home. About 6.30 a.m. there was a heavy explosion under the stern of the vessel while she was submerged, and she grounded in about 22 fathoms. Soon after midnight on May 5 the Seal was brought to the surface with great difficulty and so badly damaged that Lieutenant-Commander Rupert Philip Lonsdale, R.N., her captain, decided to make for Swedish territorial waters, proceeding stern first. When the Seal surfaced she had been submerged for about 22 hours, and officers and men were suffering physically and mentally. Confidential books were thrown overboard.

MACHINE-GUN ATTACK

About 3 p.m. the Seal was attacked by enemy aircraft with machine-gun fire. Among the wounded was Lieutenant-Commander T.B.J.D. Butler, R.N., first lieutenant and second-in-command. As he was no longer capable of carrying out his duties, the duties of second-in-command devolved upon Lieutenant Beet. When the Seal was about four miles from Swedish territorial waters the enemy attack upon her ceased. The enemy seaplane landed near her, and the Seal's captain was asked to swim to it. He did so, and Lieutenant Beet was left in command of the Seal. It was alleged that before the Germans boarded the Seal he took no steps to sink her to prevent her falling into enemy hands. After the Germans boarded the Seal Lieutenant Beet said "Let's flood forward," but a German officer prevented this from being done.

Lieutenant-Commander R.P. Lonsdale, R.N., describing conditions inside the Seal after the explosion, said that her bow was standing up at an angle of about 18 degrees, and about one-fifth of the open space inside her was flooded. There was great difficulty in getting the submarine to the surface, and the work was the harder because of the exhausted physical condition of her crew.

Other witnesses describing this said they were suffering from severe headaches, and had difficulty in breathing. The Seal's secret gear, as well as her confidential books, was thrown overboard.

ANXIETY FOR CREW

Lieutenant Beet, giving evidence, said that the captain of the Seal, seeing that little more could be done, suggested the crew should stand up and repeat the Lord's Prayer. He (Lieutenant Beet) was convinced that the Seal would sink, and his main anxiety was to secure the safety of the crew, because in her bows was a depth-charge set to go off at the depth of 50ft, and he did not want that to happen before the men were in safety.

Describing his physical condition due to the submarine having been submerged for about 22 hours, he said he felt an overwhelming desire to go to sleep, had a severe headache, and a difficulty in thinking coherently. The German officer who came on board the Seal thought she was sinking rapidly . . .

The court found the charges against Lieutenant Beet were not proved, he was honourably acquitted, and the President of the court handed him back his sword.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 9: His Excellency the Ambassador of the State of Kuwait and Madame Al-Rayes, His Excellency the High Commissioner for Canada and Mrs McMurtry, the Lord and Lady Boardman, the Lord Privy Seal and Mrs Biffen, the Bishop of Guildford and Mrs Adie, Sir John and Lady Mason, Professor John Ashworth, and Mr and Mrs Simon Hornby have arrived at Windsor Castle.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

April 9: The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, Vice-President, the Royal Bath and West and Southern Counties Show, this morning visited "Muck South West" at the Showground, Shepton Mallet and afterwards was entertained at luncheon.

Her Royal Highness was received by the Vice Lord-Lieutenant for Somerset (Mr David Tudway-Quilter).

In the afternoon The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, escorted by the Chairman of the Council (Mr R. Hewett), opened and toured the new offices of Mendip District Council in Shepton Mallet.

Afterwards, Her Royal Highness, escorted by the Chairman of Shepton Mallet Town Council, planted a tree in Collett Park.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, attended by Mrs Malcolm Wallace, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 9: The Prince of Wales arrived at Totnes Station in the Royal Train this morning.

His Royal Highness, on behalf of The Queen, subsequently took the Lord High Admiral's Divisions at Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

The Prince of Wales, attended by Lieutenant-Commander Richard Aylard, RN, later travelled to Royal Air Force Northolt in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Princess of Wales this morning opened the Broderip Ward as a unit for the care of people with HIV infection, at the Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, W1.

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith, Sir John Riddell, Bt and Mr Victor Chapman were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

April 9: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, as President of the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, today visited the Society's premises in Annfield Place, Glasgow, and was later entertained at luncheon by The Right Hon The Lord Provost of Glasgow (Mr Robert Gray).

Her Royal Highness presided at the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children which was held at the City Chambers, Edinburgh.

The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, who travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight, was attended by Lady Aird.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 9: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning opened the new National Weights and Measures Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex.

Captain Michael Campbell-Lamerton was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, as President of The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, this evening attended the Club's Annual Dinner at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall, London SW1.

Sir Richard Buckley was in attendance.

By permission of the Archbishop of Canterbury a service of Holy Communion to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury 1945-1961, will take place at Lambeth Palace at noon on Wednesday, May 20, 1987.

Space will be limited, and those wishing to attend are asked to apply to the Sir Henry Fisher, Garden End, Marlborough, SN8 1LA, by April 30.

A memorial service for Admiral Sir Geoffrey Miles will be held at St James Church, Rowledge, at 2.30 pm on Saturday, May 2, 1987.

A memorial service for Mr Henry J. (Jack) Heinz II will be held in the Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, W1, at 11 am on Tuesday, April 28.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir William Maycock will be held at Christ Church, Radlett, Hertfordshire, at 3.00 today.

Birthdays today

Lord Brookes, 78; Sir William Cook, former scientific adviser, MoD, 82; Mr Aidan Crawley, former chairman, London Weekend Television, 79; Vice-Admiral Sir Alastair Ewing, 78; Mr Patrick Garland, theatre and film director, 52; Mr A.M. Henri, former president, Liverpool Academy of Arts, 55; Miss Gloria Hunniford, broadcaster, 47; Professor Kathleen Major, former principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 81; Mr David Moorcroft, athlete, 34; Mr Robert Rhodes James, MP, 54; Mr Omar Sharif, actor, 55; Sir Charles Taylor, former MP, 77; Mr Paul Theroux, writer, 46.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a service of the Royal Victorian Order in St George's Chapel, Windsor, at 11.

The Princess of Wales represent the Queen at the Sovereign's Parade, Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, 10.30.

Latest wills

Mr William Hooper Frank John Dainty, of Shackleford, Surrey, Billy Dainty, the comedian, left estate valued at £273,575 net.

Sale room

£220,000 is paid for clock

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Christie's described the £220,000 paid yesterday for a grandfather clock as an "epic price". They have sold for high prices before but not in that range.

The handsome longcase clock was made in the reign of Queen Anne by Daniel Quare, a distinguished London clockmaker. The secret of the price, however, was the delightful imitation lacquer case, colourful chinoiserie "japanning" - as the English imitation of Japanese lacquer is known - on an ivory ground.

Flowers, rocks, birds and rivers spill over the surface. While black lacquer is common, cream lacquer like this is extremely rare. The buyer was R.A. Lee, a dealer.

Although a little damaged, it is unrestored but in a condition that is easy to put right; dealers tend to fight shy of pieces that have already been smartened up by a rival. Each has his own views on the proper way to do it. Christie's pre-sale estimate of £30,000 to £50,000 was left far behind.

The sale of English furniture was packed, with bidders spilling out into the anteroom. One other quite unlooked for price was the £165,000 (estimate £20,000 to£30,000) paid by P.Hewat-Jaboor, a London dealer, for an enormous George III mahogany breakfront bookcase.

It has every little extra that makes a good piece of furniture into a special one, curved sections, elegant glazed cupboards, a beautiful colour, and attractive carving along the crest of the piece, but Christie's had expected its size to tell against it. It is 11 ft wide and almost 10 ft high.

Prices for every period of furniture tended to run on estimate or just above estimates, reflecting the bull market of the past two years. A particularly fine Queen Anne walnut bureau-cabinet secured £93,500; an almost identical cabinet had passed through Christie's in December 1985 at £63,800. The shift in price is probably a good measure of the movement of the market.

Two surprise picture prices were reported from lesser sale rooms yesterday. Wintertons Fine Arts of Lichfield, Staffordshire, were astonished to sell a picture of troops moving along the front at night by C.R.W.Nevinson, the 1914-18 official war artist, for £20,180. It was signed and dated 1918 but almost black, according to the auctioneer.

Bonham's in London had a similar surprise when a dark, unframed painting of "The Vision of St Charles" which they had attributed to a "follower of Ribalta" and estimated at £600 to £800 was sold to the United States over the telephone at £13,200 against competition from an Italian dealer.

Appointments



Mr Peter Goldman (above), who retires in July as director of the Consumers' Association, is to be director-general of the International Organization of Consumers' Unions.

Mr P.M. Nixon to be Ambassador to Qatar in succession to Mr J. F. Walker, who will be taking up a further Diplomatic Service appointment.

Mr Douglas Scott, aged 56, a consultant for PE International, to be director of the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

Mr George Anthony Essor to be a member of the Judicial Studies Board and its criminal committee.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A. Scott
and The Hon E.A. Norton

The engagement is announced between Alistair, elder son of Professor and Mrs James S. Scott, of Byards Lodge, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire, and Elizabeth, daughter of Lord and Lady Rathcreedan, of Church Field, Fawley, Oxfordshire.

Mr M.A. Wagner
and Miss C.J. Fulford

The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Sir Anthony and Lady Wagner, of Chelsea, London, and Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr Richard Fulford, of Chelsea, London, and Mrs Ian Bowie, of Worplesdon, Surrey.

Mr W.J. Booth
and Miss J.G. Parritt

The engagement is announced between William, son of Dr Christopher Booth of Tilehurst, Berkshire, and Mrs Anne Coury, and Julie Grace, daughter of Brigadier and Mrs Brian Parritt, of Little Chilmington, Kent.

Mr A.E.I.I. Brown
and Miss H.J. Keith

The engagement ie announced between Alick, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Brown, of Chelwood Gate, Sussex, and Helen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Dick Keith, of Oadby, Leicester.

Mr C.M. Edwards
and Miss P.M.U. Chaldecott

The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Major and Mrs Michael Edwards, of Norwood Farm, Corscombe, Dorset, and Perilla, elder daughter of Mr Harry Chaldecott, of 56 Cheyne Court, SW3, and Mrs Martin Branston, of 6 Queen's Elm Square, SW3.

Mr J.O. Onslow
and Mrs D.W. Dandridge

The engagement is announced between John Onslow, of Bosham, and Dorothy Dandridge, of Chichester and Ampus, France.

Mr H.A. Corbett
and Miss J.C. Luckock

The engagement is announced between Hugh Andrew, twin son of the late Mr Andrew Corbett and of Mrs Andrew Corbett, of Goathurst, Somerset, and Jane Charlotte, eldest daughter of Mr Thomas Luckock, of Barkway, Hertfordshire, and Mrs James Noble, of Cambridge.

Mr S.P. Finley
and Miss R.H.W. Jenks

The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr and Mrs B.V. Finley, of Hartburn, Stockton-on-Tees, and Rosemarie, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M.R. Jenks, of Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire.

Dr M.N. Gaze
and Dr J.A. Wilson

The engagement is announced between Mark, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J.O. Gaze, of Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, and Janet, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs H.D. Wilson, of Edinburgh.

Mr E. Malloy
and Miss S.E.R. Muller

The marriage has been arranged and will shortly take place in America between Edward, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Malloy, of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, United States, and Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of Dr and Mrs David Muller, of Longstowe, Cambridgeshire.

Mr I.H. Milford
and Miss S.L. Pay

The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr and Mrs J. Milford, of High Hurstwood, Sussex, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.F. Pay, of Crowborough, Sussex.

Mr T.J. Salandin
and Miss A. Macnabb

The engagement is announced between Timothy, only son of Mr and Mrs James R. Salandin, of Amen Court, London, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Mr Francis Macnabb and of Mrs Sonia Macnabb, of Stanford Bishop, Worcestershire.

Luncheons

HM Government

Baroness Young, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at 1 Carlton Gardens for the Inter-Parliamentary Union delegation of the Republic of Ireland.

British Council

Mr Roderick Cavaliero, Deputy Director-General of the British Council, was host at a luncheon held yesterday at 10 Spring Gardens in honour of Mr Istvan Bart, Director of the Corvina Publishing House of Budapest, to mark the visit of the Hungarian delegation to the London Book Fair and the British/Hungarian Publishers Forum. The Hungarian Ambassador was among the guests.

"Doctor of the Year"

Mr Edward Webb, President of BUPA, presented the awards at the "Doctor of the Year" luncheon held at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. Mr Stanley Glynn, Chairman of the BUPA Medical Foundation, presided. The citations were read by Miss Sue Cook and an address was given by the Right Rev Maurice Wood.

Reception

Commonwealth of Kentucky

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Mrs Martha Layne Collins, held a reception on April 6 at the American Embassy to announce the opening of the European Representative Office of the Commonwealth of Kentucky at 117 Piccadilly.

Dinners

Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained at dinner at the Mansion House last night the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the City Livery Companies, Aldermen, Sheriffs, the Chief Commoner, members of the Court of Common Council and High Officers of the Corporation of London and their ladies. The Lord Mayor and the Masters of the Mercers' and Grocers' Companies were the speakers.

Among others present were:
Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen, Sir Denis and Lady Truscott, Lady Newman, Sir Gilbert and Lady Inglefield, Sir Hugh and Lady Wontner, the Master and Mistress Cutler in Hallamshire, the Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers and Mrs McWatters, the President of the City Livery Company and Lady Welch, Mr and Mrs John Ferguson, Mr and Mrs Robert Owen and the clerks of the "great twelve" livery companies and their ladies.

All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club

The Duke of Kent, president of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, attended the annual dinner of the club held last night at the Institute of Directors, Pall Mall. Mr H.E. Truman presided. Group Captain G.L. Cheshire proposed the toast to the guests, and the guest of honour, General Sir Robert Ford, replied.

British Paediatric Association

The fifty-ninth annual dinner of the British Paediatric Association was held at York University yesterday. The president, Professor J.O. Forfar, presided and Sir Brian Rix proposed the toast to the association. Those present included:
Dr Isobel Forfar, Sir Peter Tizard, Professor Huaiang Zhou (President of the Chinese Paediatric Association), Professor Ban Yin Ma, Professor Quan Shen Xiang, Mr Yong Biao Zhang, Professor June Lloyd, Professor and Mrs E. Rhys Davies, Professor and Mrs J L Emery, Dr and Mrs F J W Miller, and the 1987 Heinz Fellows: Dr D K Agarwal (India), Dr R L Moise (Tanzania) and Dr P G N Premila (South India).

Printers' Charitable Corporation

Mr Peter Gibbings, President of the Printers' Charitable Corporation, and Mr Norman Garrod, chairman of the council, welcomed the guests at the annual boxing dinner held at the Cafe Royal last night.

Service reception

The Royal Green Jackets Museum Trust

Field Marshal Lord Bramall, Chairman of the Appeal Council of The Royal Green Jackets Museum Trust and Chairman of the Celer et Audax Club, General Sir Richard Worsley, Chairman of the Rifle Brigade Club, and Colonel H.J. Sweeney, Chairman of the 43rd and 52nd Club, were hosts at a reception held last night at The Royal Green Jackets London club to launch the museum's appeal.

Service dinners

TA & VRA

Colonel G.S.P. Carden presided at a dinner given last night at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, by the Territorial Auxiliary and Volunteer Reserve Association for Greater London. Major-General Sir Roy Redgrave, Mr S. Kershen and Mr George Ratman were among those present.

Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron

Squadron Leader C.D. Joyner presided at the annual dinner given by the Yorkshire Universities Air Squadron last night at RAF Finningley. Air Marshal Sir Brendan Jackson, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander-in-Chief RAF Strike Command, was the guest of honour. Professor G. Clayton, Sheffield University, and Air Vice-Marshal E.H. Macey, AOC and Commandant, RAF College, Cranwell, were among those present.

Anniversaries

Births: James V of Scotland, reigned 1513-42, Linlithgow, 1512; William Hazlitt, Maidstone, 1778; William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, Nottingham, 1829; George Arliss, actor, London, 1868.

Deaths: Algernon Charles Swinburne, London, 1909; August Lumière, pioneer of motion pictures, Lyon, 1954; Evelyn Waugh, Combe Florey, Somerset, 1966.

Marriages

Mr B.J. Herbstman
and Miss L.S. Bawden Allen

The marriage took place on Saturday, April 4, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, between Mr Bart Herbstman and Miss Linda Bawden Allen.

Mr K.S. Perrett
and Mrs D.E.E. Little

The marriage took place in London on Wednesday, March 18, 1987, between Mr Kevin Perrett and Mrs Dawnie Little.

Science report

Research shows smell to work like sight

By John Newell

"Smell, the Cinderella of the senses, should be taken seriously", according to Dr Victoria Moore-Gillon, of the Royal Throat Nose and Ear Hospital, in the *British Medical Journal*. She was making the point that patients frequently need their sense of smell tested and that smell testing is primitive and beset with difficulties, in part because the way in which the sense of smell works is still largely not understood.

But at Yale University School of Medicine, Dr Tadashi Nakamura has shown that smell works surprisingly like sight.

Odorants are thought to be perceived as a result of their molecules binding to specific receptor proteins on cilia (microscopic projections from cells in the nasal epithelium). Dr Nakamura has reported in *Nature* (January 29) that a current made to flow through the membrane of the cilia when an odorant molecule binds to its surface shows a sequence of events remarkably similar to that in the eye when a light-sensitive cell is stimulated by light falling on it.

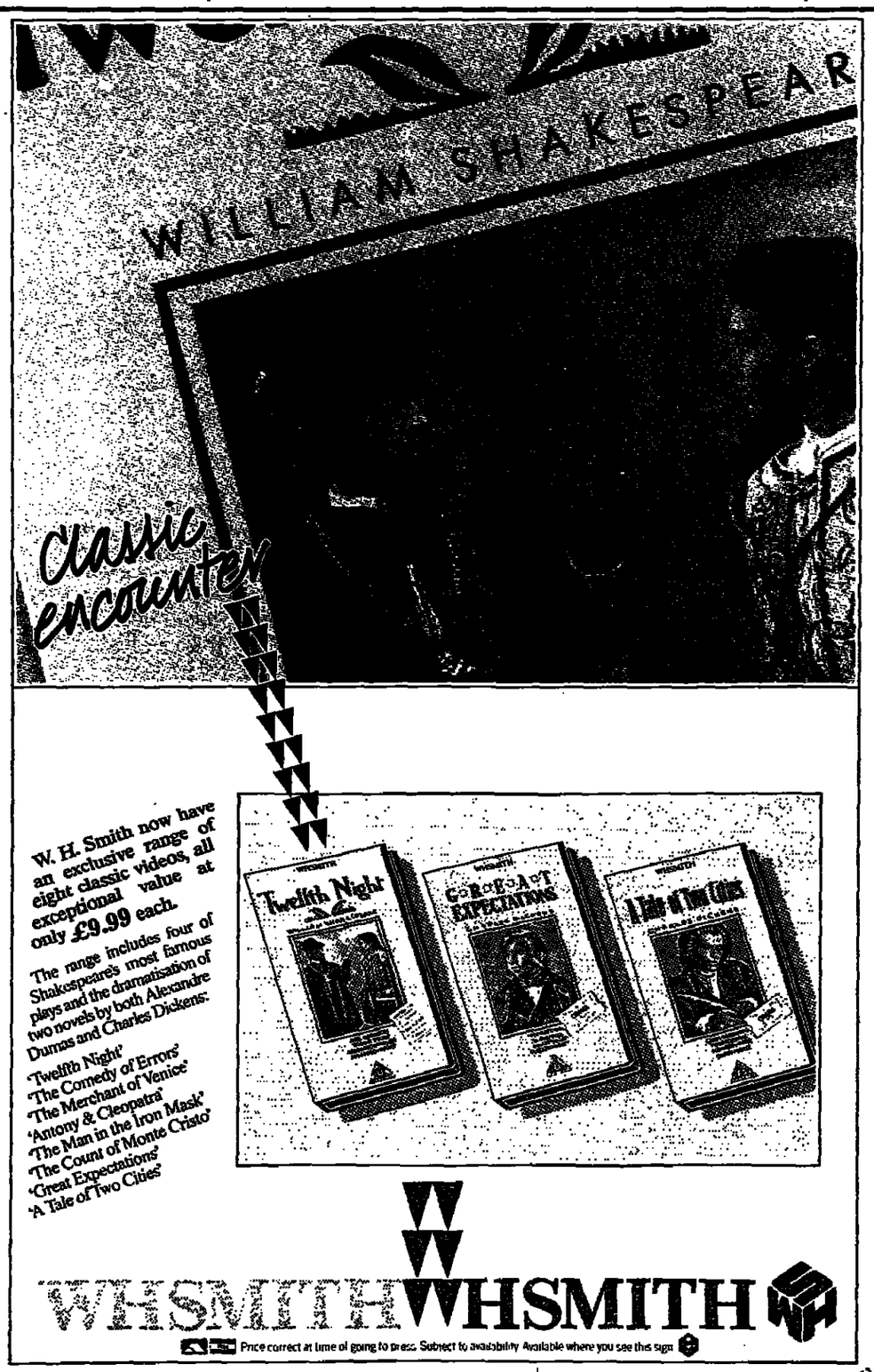
The sequence is complex. It involves the odorant molecule binding to the receptor protein and the receptor protein then binding to another protein. The second protein activates an enzyme which converts adenosine triphosphate, ATP, to adenosine monophosphate, AMP. That in turn binds to the cell membrane and opens a channel in it.

That allows a current of ions to flow inwards as the first step in the process of sending an electrical current to represent the odorant stimulus to the brain. The whole of that system, beyond the initial binding of odorant molecule to specialized receptor protein, is common not only to vision as well as to smell but also to hormone receptors.

Meanwhile, Dr Randall Reed and his colleagues at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, reporting in *Science* (February 27), have discovered how odorant molecules are bound and transported through mucus in the nose to the receptors on cilia. A protein known as BG is thought to be responsible for binding to odorant molecules and making them soluble, concentrating them and shuttling them across the mucus to the olfactory cells and their ciliary receptors.

Dr Reed cloned the gene for the BG protein and made a probe for messenger RNA from the gene. A search using the probe revealed that the messenger is found in great abundance in the cells of the nasal epithelium but not in any other tissues, suggesting that it must have a special function in the nose. Laboratory experiments strongly suggest the functions described here.

More research along such lines, besides helping to reveal more about disorders of the sense of smell, will also assist in the development of artificial biosensors which mimic the nose. Those have applications in medical diagnosis, industrial process control and for many other purposes.



W. H. Smith now have an exclusive range of eight classic videos, all exceptional value at only £9.99 each.

The range includes four of Shakespeare's most famous plays and the dramatisation of two novels by both Alexandre Dumas and Charles Dickens:

'Twelfth Night'
'The Comedy of Errors'
'The Merchant of Venice'
'Antony & Cleopatra'
'The Man in the Iron Mask'
'The Count of Monte Cristo'
'Great Expectations'
'A Tale of Two Cities'

WHSMITH

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OBITUARY

SQN LDR LOU BARRY

Master coach in British rowing



Mr Louis (Lou) Barry, MBE, who died on April 8, at the age of 82, was the last surviving professional sculling champion of England.

The son of noted waterman W. A. Barry, who himself won the title from George Towns of Australia in 1898, Barry's early years from 1909 to 1914 were spent in Hungary where he learned to scull and ride on the estate on which his father was employed.

After the Great War he was immersed in the world of professional sculling on the London tideway. He won Doggetts Coat and Badge in 1927, and in 1936 beat Ted Phelps for the championship of England, losing the title later in the same year to Phelps' younger brother, Eric.

Between these active successes he worked as a professional rowing coach in Ireland where he forged links with the Garda Siochána, which led much later to his coaching the Gardai crew which won the Thames Cup at Henley in 1975.

He was also a professional coach in Italy for some years, adding Italian to his Hungarian and German languages.

He coached the Italian Olympic team for the 1936 Olympic Games, during which period he earned the unusual distinction for an Englishman of receiving a medal from Mussolini, which he used to say came to him because he happened to be on the end of the line when the Duce made a visiting inspection.

Joining the RAF at the outbreak of the Second World War, Barry became a navigator and air gunner, and was shot down over Germany. He twice escaped and was twice recaptured, remaining a prisoner of war for five-and-a-half years until released by the Russians.

He was subsequently awarded the MBE for organizing the dissemination of BBC news reports in the various prison camps in which he had been incarcerated.

After the war he served in Air Intelligence in Austria, before retiring in 1965.

Barry had already become deeply involved in coaching the Tideway Scullers School, and he took Great Britain crews to the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 and to Montreal in 1976, as well as to numerous European and world championship events.

During these years there was no British national squad and no official head coach, but Barry was the acknowledged guru and master coach in British rowing.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, five sons and two daughters.

HIS HONOUR GERALD HINES

His Honour Gerald Hines, QC, a lawyer of considerable distinction, died on April 5. He was 75.

Vivian Gerald Hines was born on Christmas Eve 1912 and educated at Earls Colne Grammar School.

He was admitted a solicitor in 1935, and after private practice was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1943 - among the first to join the distinguished chambers of "Fred" (later, Sir Frederick) Lawton at 5, King's Bench Walk.

Hines subsequently opened chambers at Colchester, which now stand as one of the largest provincial sets in the country.

His prodigious memory, which compensated for his poor eyesight, coupled with an incisive mind, led him unerringly to appointment as QC and to judicial office.

He was, variously, deputy chairman of Essex Quarter Sessions and chairman of North-East London Quarter Sessions.

Then, at the invitation of the Lord Chancellor, he was appointed to reorganize, first, the Middlesex, and then the Inner London Quarter Sessions, which task he accomplished most successfully.

It was thought by many that he was unfortunate not to be translated to the High Court Bench. Instead, he moved to the Central Criminal Court where he displayed an enviable ability to deal with the most complicated of cases.

He sat on the council of the Boy Scouts' Association from 1961-6; and he published, in 1982, *Judicial Discretion in Sentencing*.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara.

VERY REV MICHAEL STANCLIFFE

The Very Rev Michael Stancliffe, Dean of Winchester from 1969 to 1986, died on March 26. He was 70.

Dame Josephine Barnes writes:

Michael Stancliffe made outstanding contributions, principally to the church and education.

He was chaplain and a master at Westminster School before becoming a canon of Westminster Abbey, Rector of St Margaret's and Speaker's Chaplain. From there he went to Winchester as dean.

His achievements in the field of education were considerable. He was on the governing body of his old school, Haileybury College, and chairman of the Francis Holland Schools in London; and, recently, of St Swithun's School.

At Winchester his achievements were outstanding. He brought in many innovations, and the music flourished, achieving an internatioanl reputation.

Many new works were performed, including the Lloyd Webber *Requiem*.

He was a great scholar and his sermons were admirable. His first book of sermons, *Symbols and Dances*, was published last year, and he had completed a second volume before his death.

As a man he gave an impression of modesty which concealed great intellectual gifts. He was happy in his family life and his son, David, the Provost of Portsmouth, followed him into the church.

MISS DOROTHY WARD

Dr Victor Purvis writes:

In your admirable obituary of Miss Dorothy Ward (April 1), you mentioned her readiness to help charitable performances.

I well remember her white Rolls-Royce drawing up at the front door of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in 1925 and Miss Ward stepping out in a long, white fur coat.

It was her intention to tour the wards in connection with some charity; but when she heard that the wizard professor of surgery, George Grey-Turner, was operating that morning, she expressed a wish to watch him at work.

Grey-Turner invited her into his theatre in spite of the fact that he had just commenced a hind-quarter incision, the most bloody and gruesome operation. She did not flinch, and watched spellbound until it was finished.

Grey-Turner talked without pause, as was his wont, and this no doubt reduced the tension we all felt.

Miss Ward was 35 at the time but still possessed the most beautiful and magnificent figure. We students thought we would never see the like again; but, after that day, it was her courage we admired most.

DR DUNCAN DAVIES

Sir Robin Nicholson writes:

As well as his fine scientific and industrial achievements, outlined in your obituary of April 2, Duncan Davies leaves many memories of an immensely warm man.

Whether he was giving an after-dinner speech explaining how the modern characteristics of European nations derive from Napoleon's approach to engineering; using his farewell party in the DoI to assign each of his erstwhile colleagues (Ministers included) an appropriate character in Wagner's Ring; or giving an impromptu speech on the strengths and weaknesses of the French higher education system - Duncan Davies enjoyed himself, and caused others to enjoy themselves.

I recall sitting next to him when he had just delivered one of his typically provocative but witty contributions at a scientific meeting and I whispered a few inadequate but appreciative remarks about his having livened up the meeting.

"Really", he replied, "I'm just an entertainer".

And so he was; but, like all the best entertainers, he had serious and important messages as well.

THE MARQUESS OF LINLITHGOW

The Marquess of Linlithgow, who won a Military Cross for his part in the battle for St Valery in 1940, died on April 7, his 75th birthday.

Charles William Frederick Hope was born on April 7, 1912. His father was Viceroy and Governor of India from 1936 to 1942.

His fighting war was brief, and most of it he spent as a PoW, latterly in Colditz, where he achieved some reputation as an entertainer of his fellow prisoners.

He was Lord Lieutenant of West Lothian (1964 to 1986), and served as a director of Eagle Star Insurance.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world. That I shall bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice.
St. John 18 : 37

BIRTHS

BONSOR - On Thursday April 2nd, to Nadine and Nicholas, twin daughters.

CLARK - On April 7th, in Toronto, to Susan (nee Rushbrooke) and James, a son, Alistair James Leslie, a brother for Heather.

DOOREY - On March 26th 1987, to Pamela and Peter, a daughter, Alexandra Sophie.

HARPER - On April 6th, to Sally (nee Herbert) and David, a daughter, Charlotte Lucy, a sister for Natalie.

HEWITT - On April 8th, to Alison (nee Chambers) and Jonathan, a son, Jack Nicholas, a brother for Gemma.

HOLLAND - On April 8th 1987, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Shirley (nee Cooper) and Jeremy, a daughter, Alice Shirley, sister to Oliver, Mark and Dominic.

HORLICK - On April 8th 1987, to Fiona (nee McLaren) and James, a son, Alexander.

LEAHY - On April 8th 1987, to Clarissa and Peter, a daughter, Olivia Elizabeth, a sister for Charlie.

NEWTON - On April 7th 1987, to Lizanne (nee Hattle) and Garry, a daughter, Katie Emma.

RUSSELL - On April 6th 1987, to Jill (nee Chesterman) and Patrick, a daughter, Camilla, sister for Oliver and Jessica.

SCOTHERN - On April 6th, to Annis (Ann) (nee Parkinson) and Mark, a son, William Ashton Richard, a brother for Rebecca and Francesca.

SHORT - On April 4th 1987, to Jeanne (nee Spaldin) and John, a daughter, Isobel Emma Louise.

SMITH - On April 1st 1987, to Helen and Robert, a son, George, a brother for Edward and Richard.

STONOR - On Tuesday April 7th 1987, at the Hammersmith Hospital, to Elizabeth (nee Mazurkiewicz) and Richard, a son, Peter Francis.

STREETER - On April 4th 1987, to Penelope and David, a daughter, Olivia Victoria Lucy.

WILEY - On April 8th 1987, to Kathy (nee Gale) and Joe of Little Plumstead, Norfolk, a son, Benjamin Joseph Cozens.

WOODALL - On April 6th, at Royal Shrewsbury, to Patricia (nee Dunn) and Jonathan, a daughter, Marina.

ZIAR - On April 3rd, to Jane and Perran, a son, Vivian, a brother for Hilary and Christian.

MARRIAGES

TUDOR-MAKER - On April 2nd 1987, in Colwyn Bay, Jonathan Daniell to Lita Janet.

DEATHS

ALFORD - On April 5th, in hospital, after an illness bravely borne, John Alford, aged 75, of 5 Chiltern Way, Woodford Wells, loving husband of Marjorie, father of Robert and grandfather of Melissa. Funeral Service to take place at the City of London Crematorium, Aldersbrook Road, E12 on Tuesday April 14th at 11.30am. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, to St Francis Hospice, Havering-Atte-Bower, Romford, RM4 1QH or Royal Society for Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire. Enquiries W English Funeral Director, 190 George Lane, South Woodford.

BARTLETT - On April 7th, suddenly in Melbourne, Australia, Malcolm Arthur (Mac), beloved husband of Sally, father of Ann, Mary and Michael and grandfather of Adrian and Christopher Hole. Funeral will take place in Melbourne on Fri April 10th.

BARTLETT - On April 3rd 1987, at Westminster Hospital, Judd Harold. Funeral service on Monday April 13th at 2.30pm, Kensal Green Cemetery. Flowers if desired to Messrs P.W Ballards, 308 Old Brompton Road, London SW5.

CLARKSON-WEBB - On April 6th 1987, at Ascot Priory; Enid aged 94, widow of Rupert Dudley and mother of Peter, Pamela and Pauline. Funeral service at Easthampstead Park Crematorium, Nine Mile Ride, Wokingham on Monday April 13th at 3.30pm. Enquiries to Cyril H Lovegrove Bracknell 421949.

EVANS - On April 8th, peacefully at home, Salisbury Rd, Moseley Birmingham, Wilfred Emlyn in his 89th year. Much loved husband of Constance and father of Valerie. Funeral Service at Solihull Crematorium, Streetsbrook Rd, Solihull, on Thursday April 16th 1987 at 1.30pm. No flowers please, but family and friends welcome.

GEORGE - On April 7th 1987, peacefully after a long illness bravely borne, John Brendon George, C.B.E., T D., F.R.I.C.S., aged 74, of Cheam, Surrey, beloved husband of Peggy, father of Margaret, David, Alison and Richard, and grandfather of Fergus, Sheenagh, Rory, Elspeth, Ian, Ann, Amy and Hannah. A much loved family man. Funeral service at St. John's Belmont, at 1.30pm on Wednesday April 15th, followed by private cremation. Flowers may be sent to W.A. Truelove & Son Ltd, High Street, Cheam, or donations to Cancer Research, The Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton, Surrey.

GIEYSZTOR - On April 6th 1987, at Victoria Hospital, Deal, Prince Stanislaw Dobek-Gieysztor, aged 76, beloved husband of Ann and dearly loved father of Leonia. Requiem Mass at 10.15am on Friday, April 10th at St Thomas Church, Deal, followed by interment at Hamilton Road Cemetery.

GORTVAY - On April 2nd 1987, Stephen f. Gortvay OBE. Cremation took place April 7th.

GREENWOOD - On April 7th 1987, after a short illness, Leslie William Avery, aged 79. Funeral at Britwell Salone Church, Nr Wallington, Oxfordshire on Wednesday April 15th at 2.00pm Family flowers only please. Donations if wished to Save The Children Fund. Mary Datchelor House, Grove Lane, Camberwell, London SE4.

GRUBB - On April 4th 1987, Winifred Emma, aged 86 years, of Mays Farm House, Ramsdell. Beloved widow of the late George Grubb and mother of Judith. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving and interment of ashes on Wednesday April 15th at 3.00pm at St Mary's Church, Kilmington, Devon. Flowers to the church.

HIND - On April 8th, John Anthony, F.R.I.N.A., peacefully at home after a long illness bravely borne. Visiting Professor at the International Maritime University. Funeral service at St. Vincent De Paul's, Altenburg Gardens, SW11, on Wednesday April 15th at 10am. Family flowers only. Donations to the R.N.L.I

HOWARD - On April 7th, peacefully in The Bernard Sunley Nursing Home, Woking, Cecil George, late of Frinton, Beloved husband of Eileen, father of Jo Lugg and Caryl Gough, grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral on April 14th at 2pm Woking Crematorium. St. John's. No flowers. Donations, if desired, to The Friends of The Elderly.

JENKINS - On April 4th, suddenly at home, David Caldicott Heald, aged 74. Funeral Service at Golders Green Crematorium on Wednesday April 15th at 3pm. Enquiries to J H Kenyon Ltd on 01 624 7024.

LINLITHGOW - On April 7th, in London, the Marquis of Linlithgow. Private Cremation, followed by private funeral at Hopetoun on Saturday 11th April. Flowers to Abercorn Church, West Lothian. Date of memorial service to be announced later.

LLOYD - On April 9th 1987, peacefully at Prospect Hospice, Swindon, after a recurring illness, Ulrica "Hydie", wife of Selon. Mourned by her family and a multitude of admiring friends. Funeral at All Saints Church, Woolstone at 3pm Tuesday April 14th. Memorial Service later. If desired in lieu of flowers, donations please to the Prospect Foundation, 5 Church Place, Swindon.

MANSER - On April 8th 1987, peacefully at home, Augusta Madge, aged 93 years, much loved widow of Edmund George Manser (Bobby), and mother of Pat, Billy, Audrey and Michael. Funeral at St. Mary's, Bozeat, Northamptonshire. 2pm Tuesday April 14th. Flowers to B. Hollowell and Sons, 148 Beech Avenue, Northampton.

MARSHALL - On April 7th, peacefully in Whitley Hospital, Coventry, Margaret Marshall, for over 50 years dearly beloved wife and companion of Hedley Marshall.

MATTHEWS - On April 6th, at home, after a short illness courageously borne, Robert Cyril, beloved husband of Margaret and loving father of Lesley, Sarah, Jane, Robert, Ian and Stuart. Will be sadly missed and always in our thoughts. Funeral April 10th, 2.45pm at Ruckinge Church, Ruckinge, Ashford, Kent.

McGRATH - On April 7th, Francis Desmond C.B.E., after a short illness. Dear husband of Daphne and father of Brian. Requiem Mass and funeral at The Church of Christ the King, The Crescent, Wimbledon Park SW19, at 2.30 on Thursday April 23rd. Flowers to Ashtons, 140 Alexandra Road SW19, or donations to the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association.

MELLISH - On April 1st 1987, Elizabeth Mary Mellish of Hayting Cottage, Church Hill, Arnside, Cumbria. Service and Cremation took place at Lancaster Crematorium On Tuesday 7th April.

PARKINSON - On April 8th 1987, David Bernard Parkinson M.B.E., after many years of courage and great faith. The beloved husband of Gladys. Funeral service private. No flowers or letters please, but donations if desired may be sent to The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research, 41 Eagle Street, London, WC1R 4AR.

RABL - On Wednesday April 8th, peacefully at home, after a long illness, Jan Rabl, dearly loved husband of Mojra and father of Prudence and grandfather of Francesca and Sophia. Cremation will take place at Putney Vale Crematorium, Kingston Rd, Putney, London SW15, at 12.15pm on Monday April 13th. Family flowers only please.

SHAW - On April 4th, suddenly in Paris, Evelyn Frances (nee Young), wife of Thomas Richard, mother of Nicholas, Robin, Stephen and Barnaby. Funeral has taken place.

TANGLEY - On April 8th, peacefully after a short illness, Gwendolen Hilda, aged 78 years. Beloved wife of the late Edwin, Lord Tangley. Much loved by her children Elizabeth, Peter, Jane and Alison and their families. Funeral service at St. Martin's Church, Blackheath, Guildford at 2.30pm on Wednesday 15th April, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please.

WADNIZAK - On April 8th 1987, suddenly in Ventura, California, John, beloved husband of Ann-Marie and father of Mark and Carol.

WALKER - On April 8th 1987, peacefully at Savernake Hospital, Marlborough, after an illness borne with great courage, Maud Sarah, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.S., of Clare Cottage, Wootton Rivers, in her 87th year. Dearly loved aunt and friend. Organist of St.Andrew's, Wootton Rivers, for 17 years. Funeral service on Wednesday April 15th, at 1.30pm, followed by private cremation. Donations to Church of England Childrens Society.

WARREN - On April 8th 1987, Lady Margaret Anne, peacefully. Family service only. All enquiries to Francis Chappell and Sons, 4 Glebe Way, West Wickham. Tel 01 777 9099

WEST - On April 7th, in Reading, Clive of Hare Hatch, Berkshire. Beloved husband of Prudence and dear father of Colin. Service at St Mary's Church, Wargrave on Saturday April 18th at 11am. Family flowers only, but donations to Royal Berkshire Hospital 150th Anniversary Appeal Fund c/o A B Walker & Son Ltd, 36 Eldon Road, Reading.

WILKIE - On April 8th, peacefully in Exeter, Wilna aged 87 years, widow of H.C. Wilkie C.M.G., D.S.O., (Burma). Funeral Service at St David's Church, Exeter, on Tuesday April 14th at 2.00pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Hospiscare, Butts Road, Exeter.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

KING - Louis Thornley. A Memorial Mass will be held for the late Louis King at Westminster Cathedral, London SW1, on Tuesday April 28th, at 12.30pm.

MANNING - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Kathleen (Kate) Manning, will be held at St Patrick's Church, Patterdale, on Saturday April 25th at 3.00pm.

RUPP - The Memorial Service for the Rev. Professor E. Gordon Rupp will be held in Great St. Mary's Church, Cambridge, on Saturday May 2nd 1987, at 3.00pm.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

BOWDEN - Colin Alfred 1931 - 1987 loved nephew and friend.

BURNS - On April 12th 1986, Hon Miss Dorothy Burns ('Dolly') fondly remembered.

NUNN - Maude Nunn (née Hales) April 10th 1904 - May 31st 1986 remembered with admiration and affection by her daughter Margaret Jean.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIALYSIS AND TRANSPLANT THEIR ONLY HOPE

Life saving treatment is known, but unavailable through lack of funds to 2000 people who die annually from kidney failure. Please help grant a reprieve for some of them this year Donations to:

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ABSEILING MEDICAL SERVICES. Reunion at Aldershot Saturday 4 July 1987. Details Chief Clerk 23 PARA FD AMB. Rhine Bks. Aldershot Hants.

JAPANESE Emperor, do you have memoirs or photographs of his official visits to Britain 1921 or 1975? If so please Reply to Box C222.

PLEASE HELP the National Benevolent Fund For The Aged to provide "TENS" machines for the relief of pain in conditions like arthritis. £60 buys a machine. Donations please to The Viscount Tamplonally, Chairman, NBFA, 65 London Wall, London EC2M 5TU.

EXPANDING publishers would like to hear from Authors. If you have written a book that deserves publication write to: Desk: TM11/41 THE BOOK GUILD LTD. 25 High Street, Lewes, Sussex BN7 2LU.

NON RELIGIOUS FUNERALS. Book £2 from the British Humanist Ass. (Dept ClareR) 13 Prince of Wales Terr. W8.

BIRTHDAYS

18 Congratulations and best wishes for the future Simon. Love Mum & Dad.

MACGREGOR BRUCE: Reciprocity! A.

MARK is 40 today. Happy Birthday. We love you lots. Ann, Jo and James.

SERVICES

FRIENDSHIP, Love or Marriage. All ages, areas. Dateline, Dept (Q16) 23 Abingdon Road, London W8. Tel: 01-938 1011.

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2 MILLION POUNDS OFFERED FOR A MAJOR PAINTING BY GEORGE STUBBS

Please write to Roy Miles,
3, Berkeley Square,
Mayfair W1.

ALL crocodile articles, old leather luggage, trunks etc. wanted. Tel: 01-229 9618.

CROCODILE LUGGAGE suitcases etc. and other items wanted. 01 622 8079/01 226 2225.

DERBY box. Private box wanted for The Oaks (6th June) by investment company. Please phone 01-437 3161 during office hours.

HELEN BRADLEY and LOWRY paintings sought for entry in Bonhams June Modern Pictures Sale. Our last sale set new world record prices for Helen Bradley. Contact Sarah Charlton, Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 1HH. Tel: 01 584 9161.

£10,000 cash available for large Vic wardrobes, desks, bookcases, sets of chairs, tables, bureaux. 01-946 7683 (day) 01-789 0471 (eves).

WANTED All Lloyd Loom Furniture, Chairs, Settees, tables etc. Buyer will collect any area. Tel: 291 3500.

WE buy all good quality second hand furniture. Complete house clearance service 01 291 3505.

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WATCHES wanted. We supply collectors around the world with interesting or valuable watches. We pay instant cash for fine timepieces, boxing or not. Telephone: 01-240-2343 or post details to Mr Kaye, 408 Strand, London WC2R ONE.

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PHANTOM, all sold out shows & events, Wimbledon our speciality. Wimbledon wanted, top prices paid. Discretion guaranteed. Tel: 01-639 6835.

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4-POSTERS carved posts, all wood, drapes, delivered & fitted £395, double mattress extra. Tel: 0642 817406.

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ANTIQUE Irish Hunting Table, in mahogany. Seats 8 comfortably. £1,800. Tel: Evenings 01-858 5697.

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BIDDITS OF BETTLESEED. Wood carving and Fretwork patterns/instructions & our exhibition of 17th and 18th century replica furniture on Easter Monday. Also miniature four-poster dogs bed on display. Berkeley Showroom, Elizabeth Brown House, Canesbourg Street, Berkeley, Glos (04531 810952.

BRIDGE, London School of Bridge and Club. 38 Kings Road, SW3. 01-589 7201.

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BATTERSEA Prof girl to share lux mansion flat o/looking park. Ige o/room, share facilities 250pcm. 01 350 1090.

BATTERSEA Prof F to share lux house, own room, all mod cons, £60pcm + dep excl bills. Tel: 01 228 0707 (eves)

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DULWICH BORDERS. Prof M/F N/S to share luxury house. Over looking Park. Close City / Victoria. £230 p.c.m. inc. Tel: 01 671 2695 eves.

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KENSINGTON SW10 Prof to share garden flat with owner, own room, CH. N/S. £250pcm. Tel: 01 370 4080 aft 6pm

KENSINGTON W14. Professional M/F share lovely mais, O/R. £220 pcm. 01 839 1244 ext 208.

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THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
☆ Seats available ★ Returns only

THEATRE

LONDON

☆ **COMEDY WITHOUT TITLE/OBSCENE FABLES:** Impressive double bill by Yorick Theatre Company of Lorca's last play and some Dario Fo jollity.
Young Vic Studio Theatre, 66 The Cut, SE1 (01-928 6363). Tube: Waterloo. Mon-Sat (Lorca) 7.30-8.40pm, (Fo) 9-10.45pm, matinée Sat 2.30-3.40pm and 4-5.45pm, £6.50 (for both plays) £3.75 (for one play).

☆ **COUNTRY DANCING:** Nigel Williams's play mixes class struggle, sexual enmity and rustic music. Good dancing.
Pit Theatre, Barbican Centre, EC2 (01-628 8795). Tube: Barbican/Moorgate. Tues-Sat 7.30-9pm, matinée Sat 2-3.30pm, £7.50.

☆ **FROM MORNING TILL MIDNIGHT:** Inventive production of Kaiser's Expressionist classic. David Bamber as the cashier unhinged by cash.
Soho Poly Theatre, 16 Riding House Street, W1 (01-636 9050). Tube: Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 8-9.50pm. £2.75-£4.50, plus £1 membership, until April 25.

☆ **NUNSENSE:** Off-Broadway musical set in a convent; jokes about dead nuns.
Fortune Theatre, Russell Street, WC2 (01-836 2238). Tube: Covent Garden. Mon-Fri 8.10-10.20pm, Sat 8.30-10.50pm, matinées Thurs and Sat 3-5.20pm. £6-£13.50.

☆ **A PIECE OF MY MIND:** George Cole and Anna Carteret in Peter Nichols's play covering 20 years of a writer's life.
Apollo Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-437 2663). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Fri 7.30-9.50pm, Sat 8-10.20pm, matinée Wed 2.30-4.50pm, Sat 5-7.20pm, £5-£13.50.

☆ **SPIN OF THE WHEEL:** Musical about a dodge to revive an ailing TV quiz show that backfires on the dodgers.
Comedy Theatre, Panton Street, SW1 (01-930 2578). Tube: Piccadilly Circus. Mon-Thurs 8-10.30pm, Fri and Sat 8.30-11pm, matinée Fri and Sat 5-7.30pm, £3.50-£15.

☆ **THE TOURIST GUIDE:** Intense emotional play about male and female in Greece by successful German playwright Boto Strauss.
Almeida Theatre, Almeida Street, N1 (01-359 4404). Tube: Highbury and Islington. Mon-Sat 8-9.45pm, £6-£7.

☆ **WHAT ABOUT LUV:** Marti Caine in the transfer of amusing musical version of Murray Schisgal's *Luv. Three ill-matched lovers keep* meeting on a New York bridge.
Lyric Theatre, King Street, W6 (01-741 2311). Tube: Hammersmith. Mon-Sat 7.45-9.35pm, matinée Wed 2.30-4.20pm, Sat 4-6.50pm, £5-£10, until May 2.

☆ **WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR . . . TROUSERS??:** Man wakes up in wrong bed to find clothes stolen by burglar. Take it from there.
Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (01-379 6107). Tube: Leicester Square. Previews: Mon-Sat 8-10pm, matinée Tues 3-5pm and Sat 5-7pm, £6.50-£12.50.

LONG RUNNERS: ☆ **The Business of Murder:** Mayfair Theatre (01-629 3036) . . . ★ **Cats:** New London Theatre (01-405 0072, cc 01-404 4079) . . . ★ **Chess:** Prince Edward Theatre (01-734 8951) . . . ★ **42nd Street:** Drury Lane Theatre Royal (01-836 8108/9/0 or 01-240 9066/7) . . . ☆ **Me and My Girl:** Adelphi Theatre (01-836 7611/7358 and 01-240 7913/4) . . . ★ **Les Misérables:** Palace Theatre (01-434 0909) . . . ☆ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's Theatre (01-836 1443, cc 01-379 6433) . . . ☆ **No Sex, Please, We're British:** Duchess Theatre (01-836 8243) . . . ★ **Phantom of the Opera:** Sold out until October. Her Majesty's Theatre (01-839 2244, cc 01-379 6131, 01-240 7200) . . . ☆ **Run for your Wife:** Criterion Theatre (01-930 3216, cc 01-379 6565) . . . ★ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria Theatre (01-828 8665, cc 01-630 6262) . . . ☆ **Stepping Out:** Duke of York's Theatre (01-836 5122, cc 01-836 9837) . . . ☆ **Time:** Dominion Theatre (01-580 8845, cc 01-836 2428).

OUT OF TOWN

CAMBRIDGE: ☆ **Knuckle:** Revival of David Hare's private-eye thriller with Brian Capron, Joanna Hole and Ernest Clark.
Arts Theatre, Peas Hill (0223 352000). Mon-Sat 8-10.15pm, matinee Sat 4.30-6.45pm, £6-£6.50, until April 11.

LIVERPOOL: ☆ **Comedians:** Trevor Griffiths's 1975 play *The Comedians* marvellously rewritten for women performers. With Cheryl Maiker, Jenny Lecoat and Ann Mitchell.
Everyman Theatre, Hope Street (051 709 4776), Tues-Sat 8-10.20pm, £2.50-£4.50, until May 2.

MANCHESTER: ☆ **Applause:** Exciting musical based on the film *All About Eve* with Josephine Blake in the Bette Davis role.
Forum Theatre, Wythenshawe, Town Centre, Manchester (061 437 9663). Tues-Sat 7.30-9.55pm, £3-£7.20, until April 11.

STRATFORD: ☆ **Julius Caesar:** New season opens with Roger Allam as Brutus and Nicholas Farrell as Antony in Terry Hands's production.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 295623). Mon-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, £5-£17.50.

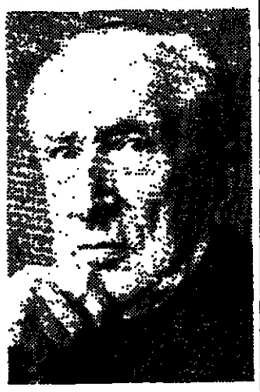
STRATFORD: ☆ **Hyde Park:** Courtship comedy by James Shirley, the RSC's first venture into Caroline drama.
Swan Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 295623). Tues-Sat 7.30-10.15pm, £3-£13.

TAUNTON: ☆ **Peer Gynt:** Michael Maloney plays Ibsen's feckless hero.
Brewhouse Theatre, Coal Orchard (0823 83244) Mon-Sat 7.45-9.45pm, matinee Thurs and Sat 2.30-4.30pm, £2.75-£5.25, until April 11.

FILMS

■ **Also on national release**
☎ **Advance booking possible**

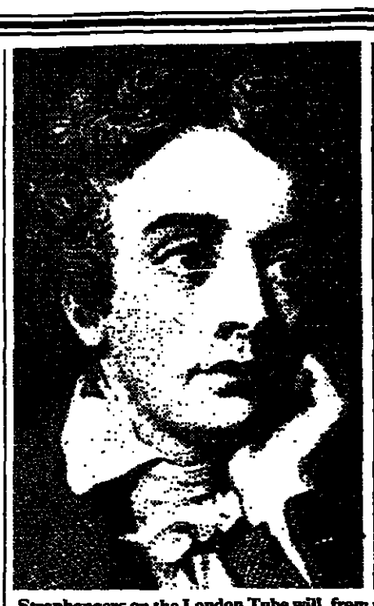
BLUE VELVET (18): David Lynch's surreal tale about the placid surface of an American small town being violently ripped apart. Isabella Rosellini is the local siren, Dennis Hopper evil incarnate and Kyle MacLachlan a wholesome hero (120 min).
Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742). Progs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40.
Gate Cinema (01-727 4043). Progs 2.15, 4.20, 6.35, 8.55, 11.15.
☎ **Lumiere** (01-379 3014, cc 01-379 3014). Progs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40, 11.15.
☎ **Screen on the Hill** (01-435 3366). *Progs 1.20, 3.40, 6.10, 8.40, 11.15.*



Sir William Walton wrote his Battle of Britain suite as part of the score for the film, Battle of Britain, in the late 1960s. But when the film appeared, only a few seconds of Walton's music remained and the suite did not get a public performance until two years ago. It is now a popular item and is being played in tonight's RAF Anniversary Concert by the RPO under Sir Charles Groves, along with Beethoven's Symphony No 7 and Liszt's first Piano Concerto.

CONCERTS

☆ **ILKKA PAANANEN:** A somewhat odd programme from this pianist, including Villa-Lobos's *O Polichinello*, a *Lândler* by Schubert, Falla's *Hommage à Debussy* and Paananen's own Duo for Piano and Film.
Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800), 7.30-9.15pm, £2-£4.



A thing of beauty is a joy for ever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

Straphangers on the London Tube will, from next week, be able to pass their journeys more rewardingly by drinking in the verse of John Keats (above) and his "Endymion", or of Edward Thomas who was killed 70 years ago at the battle of Arras or, coming nearer to the present day, the work of Adrian Mitchell. They are the latest recruits to Poets on the Underground and their works will adorn the tubes over the next three months. At the same time, more than 3,000 posters are going out to schools, libraries, hospitals and prisons. London Transport provides half the advertising space free of charge and the posters are printed and designed by Faber. Other publishers with poets are also involved and it all adds up to a painless introduction to Eng. Lit. If Faber and company sell a few more volumes as a result, why not? The "Endymion" extract vies with Sir Thomas Wyatt's "Tagus Farewell" as the longest of the pieces, and should last all the way to Morden or West Ruislip. For a shorter hop try this couplet from Adrian Mitchell: "He breathed in air, he breathed out light/Charlie Parker was my delight". Posters available from Poems on the Underground, 114 Mansfield Road, London NW3. *Peter Waymark*

■ **THE FLIGHT OF THE NAVIGATOR (U):** Joey Cramer as the boy who serves as navigator for a distant planet's space flights (90 min).
Cannon Haymarket (01-839 1527). Progs 1.15, 3.35, 6.00, 8.25, 11.15.
Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310). Progs 1.20, 3.45, 6.00, 8.15, 11.15.
Cannon Prince Charles (01-437 8181). Progs 1.20, 300, 5.25, 7.50.
Odeon Marble Arch (01-723 2011). Progs 1.15, 3.35, 5.55, 8.15.
☎ **Odeon Kensington** (01-602 6644, cc 01-602 5193). Progs 2.35, 4.50, 8.15.
Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905). Progs 2.30, 4.30, 6.30, 8.30.

■ **THE FOURTH PROTOCOL (15):** Old-fashioned entertainment based on Frederick Forsyth's novel about a Soviet plan to sabotage Nato. Michael Caine is the maverick spycatcher (119 min).
☎ **Odeon Kensington** (01-602 6644, cc 01-602 5193). Progs 2.20, 4.50, 8.10.
Odeon Swiss Cottage (01-722 5905). Progs 2.30, 5.00, 8.10.
☎ **Odeon Leicester Square** (01-930 6111, cc 01-930 3232/01-839 1929). Progs 1.15, 4.30, 7.45, 11.15.

PERSONAL SERVICES (18): Terry *Jones's outrageous comedy,* inspired by the life of Cynthia Payne, stars Julie Walters (105 min).
☎ **Cannon Fulham Road** (01-370 2636, cc 01-373 6990). Progs 2.00, 6.00, 9.10.
Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 1310). Progs 1.40, 3.55, 6.10, 8.30, 11.15.
☎ **Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue** (01-836 6279). Progs 1.10, 3.30, 5.50, 8.30.
☎ **Plaza Lower Regent Street** (01-437 1234, cc 01-240 7200). Progs *1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.15.*
☎ **Screen on the Green** (01-226 3520). Progs 2.20, 4.25, 6.45, 8.50, 11.15.

THE VOYAGE HOME — STAR TREK IV (PG): The *Enterprise* team star in another slick fantasy. Leonard Nimoy directs (119 min).
Cannon Bayswater (01-229 4149). Progs 2.30, 5.15, 8.15, 11.00.
Cannon Edgware Road (01-723 5901). Progs 2.55, 5.35, 8.15, 11.15.
☎ **Cannon Fulham Road** (01-370 2636, cc 01-373 6990). *Progs 2.00, 5.15, 8.40.*
Cannon Haymarket (01-636 0310). Progs 1.15, 3.35, 6.00, 8.25, 11.15.
Cannon Oxford Street (01-636 0310). Progs 1.20, 3.45, 6.00, 8.15, 11.15.
Cannon Prince Charles (01-437 8181). Progs 1.20, 3.00, 5.25, 7.50.
☎ **Empire Leicester Square** (01-437 1234, cc 01-240 7200). Progs 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30, 11.15.

☆ **GENTLE VIOLENCE:** On guitar and flute, Gerald Garcia and Clive Conway play Judith Weir's *Gentle Violence*, Takemitsu's *Toward the Sea*, Rodrigo's *Serenata dell'Alba del Dio*, Anthony Payne's *1940s Childhood*, Piazzolla's *Histoire du Tango* and traditional Celtic pieces arranged by Garcia including *Port ul Mhurgheasa.*
Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141), 7.30-9.15pm, £2-£5.

☆ **BACH/DURUFLE:** *First Donald* Cashmore conducts the City of London Sinfonia in Bach's Suite No 3, then the City of London Choir and soloists are added for Bach's *Magnificat* and Duruflé's *Requiem.*
Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800), 7.45-9.45pm, £3.50-£7.

☆ **DVORAK'S GOBLIN:** Dvořák's rarely performed symphonic poem *The Water Goblin* is heard from the Scottish National Orchestra under Neeme Jarvi, as is Brahms's *Symphony No 4.* Håken Hardenberger solos in Haydn's Trumpet Concerto.
Usher Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh (031 228 1155), 7.30-9.45pm, £2-£8.80.

☆ **RAF ANNIVERSARY:** See *caption.*
Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, cc 01-928 8800), 8-10.15pm, £4-£10.

OPERA

☆ **SIMON BOCCANEGRA:** English National Opera's new production of Verdi's opera: David Alden directs, Mark Elder conducts and Jonathan Summers plays the great Doge of Genoa caught between private loyalties and the conflicts of civil war.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161), 7.30-10.45pm, £2-£18.50.

☆ **ATALANTA:** The second of three "episodes" in Robert Ashley's opera, receiving its British premiere at the Camden Festival, is called *Wilsons*; its subject is the uncle of the painter Max Ernst; the production is performed by the original New York cast.
Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1 (01-387 9629/01-388 1394), 7.30-9.30pm, £5-£8.

☆ **FROM THE HOUSE OF THE DEAD:** David Pountney's harrowing unmissable production of Janáček's Dostoevsky opera still touring for Scottish Opera.
New Tyne Theatre, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne (091 232 2061), 7.15-10.15pm, £3-£16.

☆ **HAPPY END:** The Weill/Brecht classic performed in English by St Donat's Music Theatre directed by Mike Ashman for the Camden Festival.
The Place, Dukes Road, London WC1 (01-387 0031/01-388 1394), 8-10pm, £5 (£3 concessions).

★ **LA BOHEME:** New production by David Freeman of Opera Factory fame. Brian Davies is the Mimi and Adrian Martin the Rodolfo.
Opera North, Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0532 459351), 7.15-10.30pm, £3.50-£16.50.

★ **MAGIC FLUTE:** New production by Robert Knights for Kent Opera in their summer season. Strong cast includes Patricia Rozario as Pamina. Free pre-performance talk at 6.15pm.
Congress Theatre, Carlisle Road, Eastbourne (0323 36363), 7.30-10.30pm, £4.50-£11.

★ **UN BALLO IN MASCHERA:** Göran Järvefelt's powerful production for Welsh National Opera with Christine Teare as the Amelia.
Mayflower Theatre, Commercial Road, Southampton (0703 229771), 7.15-10.30pm, £5-£18.

☆ **RUDDIGORE:** New Sadler's Wells Opera tour Ian Judge's handsome and witty production of the G & S mock-melodrama, strongly cast and well sung.
Theatre Royal, New Road, Brighton (0273 28488), 7.30-10.20pm, £3-£9.

DANCE

★ **SWAN LAKE:** Final performances before the Royal Ballet goes on foreign tours. Day tickets (rear amphitheatre) and standing room only or returns.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066), 7.30-10.20pm, £5-£5.50.

☆ **AMERICAN SUITE:** Extemporary Dance Theatre in works by David Gordon and Viola Farber.
Opera Theatre, Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Manchester (061 273 4504), 7.45-9.45pm, £3-£4.

★ ***CARMEN:*** *High-powered casts* from London Festival Ballet perform Roland Petit's dance drama, Kevin Haigen's *Nocturn* and a new work by Ulysses Dove.
Theatre Royal, Westgate Street, Bury St Edmunds (0284 69505), 7.30-10pm, £3-£8.

★ **SWAN LAKE:** André Prokovsky's dramatic staging for Northern Ballet Theatre.
Towngate Theatre, Kingland Road, Poole (0202 685222), 7.45-9.45pm, £7.50.

JAZZ

☆ **NANA VASCONCELOS:** Solo performance by a Brazilian percussionist well-known for his work with Don Cherry, Gato Barbieri and others.
Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 (01-388 1394, cc 01-387 8293), 7.30pm, £6.

☆ **KENNY DAVERN:** Notably lyrical *American clarinetist, firmly in* jazz's mainstream.
Prince of Orange, 118 Lower Road, London SE16 (01-237 9181), 9pm.

☆ **JAMES MOODY:** A veteran bebop saxophonist who presents his music with delicious wit.
Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (01-439 0747), 9.30pm, £8 (£6 members).

☆ **WAYNE SHORTER:** Opinions are sharply divided on the worth of the great man's current direction.
Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (031 668 2019), 9.30pm, £6.

ROCK

★ **MICHAEL MCDONALD:** First British tour by the singer-songwriter who joined the Booble Brothers in 1976 and subsequently wrote much of their best material, including "What a Fool Believes" and "Minute by Minute". His *strained expressive tenor* also replaced high harmonies as the band's trademark. A solo star since the Boobies disbanded in 1982, recent successes include "Ya Mo B There", last year's "On My Own", with Patti Labelle, and a lengthy residency in the album chart with *Sweet Freedom — The Best of Michael McDonald.*
Empire, Lime Street, Liverpool (051 709 1555), 7.30pm, £7.50-£8.50.

★ **SIMPLY RED:** Final night of the current tour for the band fronted by singer Mick Hucknall, a would-be Al Green who is being upstaged vocally by the prowess of support Terence Trent D'Arby.
Hippodrome, St Augustine's Parade, Bristol (0272 299444), 7.30pm, £6-£7.

TOP FILMS AND VIDEOS

LONDON:

1	(-)	Personal Services
2	(1)	*The Fourth Protocol*
3	(4)	Children of Lesser God
4	(3)	Crocodile Dundee
5	(5)	Little Shop of Horrors
6	(-)	Haunted Honeymoon
7	(2)	The Color of Money
8	(-)	Over The Top
9	(6)	Stand By Me
10	(9)	Room With A View

Supplied by *Screen International*

OUTSIDE LONDON:

1 The Color of Money
2 Mosquito Coast
3 Crocodile Dundee
4 Children of a Lesser God
5 Nightmare on Elm Street 2

Supplied by: *Screen International*

UNITED STATES:

1	(-)	Police Academy 4
2	(1)	*Blind Date*
3	(3)	Platoon
4	(2)	Lethal Weapon
5	(4)	Tin Men
6	(5)	Burglar
7	(6)	Nightmare On Elm St 3
8	(7)	Hoosiers
9	(8)	Mannequin
10	(9)	Outrageous Fortune

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VIDEO RENTALS:

1 The Jewel of the Nile
2 Out of Africa
3 Commando
4 Cobra
5 Day of the Dead

Supplied by: *Video Business*

☆ **HANK WANGFORD:** C & W's most famous singing gynaecologist and tongue-in-cheek advocate of "sincerity" takes his music and dry humour to the Alternative Country Music Festival.
Town & Country Club, 9-17 Highgate Road, London NW5 (01-267 3334), 7.30pm, £4.99 (£3.50 with UB40).

☆ **SPEAR OF DESTINY:** Kirk Brandon's come-back tour with a *new line-up that includes* Steve and Pete Barnacle. Support is the listenable The Bolshoi.
Playhouse, 18-21 Greenside Place, Edinburgh (031 557 2590), 7.30pm, £5.

★ **THE HOLLIES:** One of the premier singles groups of the 1960s with a string of hits including "Just One Look", "Bus Stop" and "Here I Go Again". Their fortune took a tumble with Graham Nash's departure from the band in 1968, taking with him his distinctive *harmony vocal which was so much* a part of the Hollies's sound. This also coincided with 1960s bands generally becoming unfashionable. Three more nights remaining on their current UK tour.
Marlowe Theatre, The Friars, Canterbury (0227 67248), 7.45pm, £6.50-£7.50.

GALLERIES

GERALD BROCKHURST (1890-1978): A retrospective of the prodigious draughtsman and leading society portrait painter of the 1930s who was forced, by scandal, to go to the USA. His etchings are among the medium's finest.
National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (01-930 1552), Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm, free, until May 31.

CRAIGIE AITCHINSON: 30 paintings by an eccentric artist whose delightful poetic pictures could hardly be more sophisticated.
Albemarle Gallery, 18 Albemarle Street, London W1 (01-493 7968). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 11am-1pm, free, until May 1.

THE ART OF WATERCOLOUR: Covering 500 years from Dürer to Paul Nash, this important exhibition includes examples by Turner and Tom Girtin, the undisputed champions of the medium.
Castle Museum, Castle Meadow, Norwich (0603 611277), Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until May 17.

WONDERS OF CREATION: An exhibition of 70 natural history drawings of plants and animals, the earliest of which is an Anglo-Saxon herbal.
British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (01-323 7111), Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, free, until July 5.

ON A PLATE: A show of plates painted by 100 of Britain's best artists, for which members of the public can make sealed bids. Proceeds to Art Aid.
Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (01-402 6075), daily 10am-6pm, free, until May 10.

VENEZIA ANCORA: 140 works resulting from 16 artists, including Adrian George and Gerald Mynott, who were despatched to Venice by the Francis Kyle Gallery to record their impressions.
Arts Club, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (01-499 6870), Mon-Fri 10am-noon, 3.30-5.30pm, free, until May 8.

WALKS

THE CHARM OF THE ROYAL CHELSEA VILLAGE: meet Sloane Square tube, 11am, £2.

LONDON HISTORIC DOCKLANDS AND THAMES: meet Tower Hill tube, 2.30pm, £2.75.

SHAKESPEARE'S LONDON: meet St Paul's tube, 11am, £2.25.

AN HISTORIC PUB WALK — INNS OF COURT: *meet Chancery Lane* tube, 7.30pm, £2.25.

HAUNTED LONDON — A GHOST WALK: meet Covent Garden tube, 7.30pm, £2.50 (ends in a pub).

TALKS

MEET THE JOURNALIST: Country writer Andrew Wilson gives an illustrated talk on his life and work.
Lake District National Park Visitor Centre, Brockhole, Windermere, Cumbria (096 626601), 1.30pm, £1.20 (includes admission to the centre).

TURNER — THE EARLY YEARS: Gallery talk by Andrew Wilton, curator of the Turner Collection, as part of a series on art and society in Turner's lifetime.
Clore Auditorium, Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 1313), 1pm, free.

SPIRIT DANCERS OF SOUTH KANARA, INDIA: Lecture by Professor Nancy Sheilds of the University of Wisconsin on the dancers' unifying social and religious role. Organized by the Institute of *Cultural Research.*
Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue, London SW1 (01-994 0853), 7.30pm, £3.

OTHER EVENTS

ALL ROADS LEAD TO FRANCE: Small exhibition to mark the anniversary of the death of the poet Edward Thomas 70 years ago. On display are original manuscripts, portraits, photographs, family correspondence and a poignant collection of personal belongings
Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, London SE1 (01-735 8922), Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm Sun 2-5.50pm, free, until Sep 6

CARVED WOOD: Exhibition of contemporary carved wood items, from miniatures to large-scale sculptures.
Contemporary Applied Arts, 43 Earlham Street, London WC2. Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 11am-5pm, free, until May 9.

PROVINCIAL BOOKSELLERS FAIR: Antiquarian books, prints, maps and good-quality secondhand editions.
Mitchell Library, Glasgow. Today noon-8pm, tomorrow 10am-5pm, 30p.

POETRY OF LANDSCAPE: Opportunity to see this award-winning video about Wordsworth's country
Lake District National Park Visitor Centre, Brockhole, Windermere, Cumbria, 3.30pm, admission to Visitors' Centre: adult £1.20, child 5-17 60p, under-5s free.

FLYING COLOURS: Travelling exhibition of needlework — quilts, banners, hangings and embroideries — made by women wishing to make a strong personal or group statement through their craftwork.
Albert Dock Complex, Liverpool, Merseyside. Daily 10am-6pm, £1, until April 26

WORLD OF GARDENING SHOW: Floral displays, trade stands and an "ask the expert" desk. Full refreshments, licensed bar.
Brighton Centre, King's Street, Brighton, East Sussex (0273 203131), 10am-8pm, adult £1.25, child £1.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

LONDON INTERNATIONAL OPERA FESTIVAL: Postal booking from today for *La Bohème* at the Royal Opera House, June 6. With Placido Domingo, Ilona Tokody, Thomas Allen and Gwynne Howell. Personal and phone booking from May 1.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066/01-240 1911).

CHESTER SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL: The 10th anniversary of this festival includes the 60th anniversary concert for the first single-handed flight across the Atlantic with a performance of Brecht/Weill cantata *The Lindbergh Flight;* and a newly-commissioned song cycle by Howard Blake. Performers include Barry Tuckwell, Yan Pascal Tortelier, Jill Gomez and Michaela Petri. July 17-15. Programme from: Patricia Brambell, 176 Liverpool Road, Chester (0244 380666 after 4pm)

LES GRANDS BALLETS CANADIENS: Booking for three programmes featuring ballets by Balanchine, Paul Taylor and Antony Tudor, with London premieres of new works by Canadian choreographers. June 9-20.
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (01-278 8916).

LAST CHANCE

ROBERT ADAM: 70 drawings relating to the interior design of Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire. Ends Sat.
Heinz Gallery, 21 Portman Square, London W1 (01-580 5533).

BORDEAUX COLLECTION: 25 etchings of great wine chateaux, including works by Tom Phillips, Patrick Procktor and Norman Ackroyd. Ends today.
Thumb Gallery, 20 D'Arblay Street, London W1 (01-434 2931).

Theatre: Jeremy Kingston; **Films:** Geoff Brown; **Concerts:** Max Harrison; **Opera:** Hilary Finch; **Rock:** David Sinclair; **Jazz:** Richard Williams; **Dance:** John Percival; **Galleries:** David Lee; **Walks** and **Talks:** Jane Rackham; **Other Events:** Judy Froshaug; **Bookings:** Anne Whitehouse.

ENTERTAINMENTS

CONCERTS

BARBICAN HALL 6288795/638 8891. Tom't. 7.45 **GUARDS SPECTACULAR.** Inc Band of the Life Guards.

EXHIBITIONS

SOTHEBY'S Exhibition of Magnificent Botanical Books, illustrating 300 years of botanical art (1500-1900) from the collection of Robert de Belder. Open until 26th April 9am to 4.30 pm weekdays. 12 noon to 4pm Sundays. Closed over Easter weekend. Book & Manuscript Department, Bloomfield Place (off New Bond Street), London W1A 2AA. Tel. 01-493 8080 Enquiries Alan Gillis ext 594.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 836 3161 CC 240 5258 **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA** Tom't 7.30 Simon Boccanegra. Tomor 7.00 Don Giovanni.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 240 1066/ 1911. Sticky info 836 6903. S CC. 55 amphi seats avail on the day.
Tom't 7.30 **THE ROYAL BALLET** Swan Lake (£1-£22.50). Ballet casting info: 01 240 9816. Tomor 7.30 **THE ROYAL OPERA** The Gods Go Forth to France (£1-£23.50).

SADLER'S WELLS 278 8916 First Call CC 24hr 7 day 240 7200 (8kg fee). LFB. Artistic director, Peter Schaufuss. April 21- 25, PRJOBOLUS Dance Theatre. April 28-May 9.

THEATRES

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MARCH OF THE FALSETTOS
"AN AMAZING, EXUBERANT MUSICAL" Times Review by William Finn.
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THE PIT Tom't, tomor 2.00 & 7.30 **SARCOPHAGUS** by C. Tadeusz Kantor. **COUNTRY DANCING** by Nigel Williams returns 22-25 April. **WORLDS APART** by Jose Triana from 29 April.

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THE ARTS

Hospital in a state of siege

TELEVISION

Yesterday the Princess of Wales officially opened Britain's first AIDS ward, and *This Week* (Thames) chose to ask awkward questions about its likely future. The Middlesex Hospital's 12-bed ward is the visible part of the iceberg: since the Government spent most of its AIDS budget on alarmist advertising, the VD clinic and blood laboratory have been swamped.

This portrait of a hospital under siege was salutary in that the same pattern of underfunding is likely to be repeated elsewhere. It was also welcome to see the ward-sister point out that she is a greater health-risk to her patients, with their depressed immune systems, than they are to her.

The monstrous growths that informed *40 Minutes: The Mighty Leek* (BBC2) resembled baby palm-trees with preternaturally pallid trunks. For some reason (hardly probed here), prize leeks are enthusiastically cultivated in the allotments of the North-east; are jealously guarded, sometimes stolen; and are annually judged according to their volume, as assessed by a booklet called *The Newcastle Brown Leek Calculator*.

Even at this Brobdignagian bulk, leeks are scarcely exciting. A slice of cultural history would have helped the non-green viewer to put the habit into context, and one would like to have heard the views of the growers' wives as they patiently polished the trophies.

Martin Cropper

Adult response to juvenile horrors

CINEMA

Blue Velvet (18)
Lumière; Screen on the Hill; Gate Notting Hill; Chelsea Cinema

Flight of the Navigator (U)
Odeon Marble Arch

The Voyage Home – Star Trek 4 (PG)
Empire Leicester Square



Innocent young couple caught in a mesh of corruption: Kyle MacLachlan and Isabella Rossellini in *Blue Velvet*

David Lynch and Blue Velvet are the cult of the moment – at a time, admittedly, when there is not much cinema about which to be cultish. Lynch has an imagination which is dark and curious and original; and he has the ability to translate his visions to the screen. He loves darkness and unexplained stirrings in the shadows, the menace of bleak, deserted back-lots and crumbling buildings, images of putrefaction and decay. The images are complemented by a collage of unnerving sounds – a distant chainsaw, the buzz of a defective electrical connection, thundering silences in between – which he devises with Alan Splet, his "sound designer".

Lynch's first feature, *Eraserhead*, was a surreal distortion of family patterns. *The Elephant Man*, on the surface a conventional historical film, juxtaposed clinical deformity with social deformations at the end of the Industrial Revolution. In the fantasy-spectacle *Dune* Lynch was overcome by technology and an inadequate script.

Blue Velvet is a long-cherished project, which he wrote himself. It is set in a small town called Lumberton (in honour of the local industry) somewhere in the 1950s – an old Bobby Vinton recording of the title-song accompanies the credits. Images in children's-book colouring establish the place: blue sky, white picket fences, green grass, red roses, yellow tulips, a fire engine with no fire to go to and a crocodile of infants at a school crossing.

The idyll is quickly shattered. A man collapses while watering his lawn. Nearby the same man's son (Kyle MacLachlan) retrieves from the grass a severed human ear, with bits of hair still attached, crawling with ants. This macabre discovery sets him on to private investigation, assisted by the daughter of the local detective (Laura Dern).

The township turns out to be a Pandora's box. The young man quickly finds himself enmeshed with very sinister people: a pathologically masochistic prostitute and roadhouse singer (Isabella Rossellini); a crazed, possessive, sadistic gangster (Dennis Hopper) who asserts his power over her by kidnapping her small son.

"It's a strange world" is the recurrent refrain of the innocent young couple. The boy is Pandora indeed, driven by inexplicable and insatiable curiosity – fascinated "because it's hidden . . . it's secret". "I can't decide", says the girl pertinently, "whether you are a detective or a pervert". Innocence may in the end be perverted by its own curiosity: to his horror he finds himself first turned into a voyeur, then yielding to the masochistic woman's feverish urging. In the end he becomes a killer himself.

At the end of the film, order is restored. We are back to the picket fences and primary colours. The young man wakes as if from a bad dream, among his loved ones. They chirrup over a robin redbreast on the window-ledge, which sours the idyll by masticating a worm.

The world may be strange, but the hidden parts of it exposed in *Blue Velvet* are not all that unfamiliar in clinical or criminal terms. What Lynch is dredging out of his imagination here is not the surreal fantasy of *Eraserhead* but abnormal excesses of sexual behaviour. When Dennis Hopper, hyped up by gulps from what seems to be an oxygen mask, launches into sexual assault on Rossellini, trying to defy his impotence with foul language and crazed shifts of role, it is repulsive; yet we can recognize the same underlying clinical patterns as in the more cheerful Streatham sex-games on view in *Personal Services*.

The cult enthusiasm for Lynch is not based only on the undeniable skill and expressiveness of his technique: the main attraction evidently depends upon the imaginative content, so it is curious to speculate on the particular appeal of *Blue Velvet* for critics and devotees (though not so much for the general public, who in America at least seem to have found it a shade too tough). It can hardly lie in the social message: there is no great novelty in revealing that sunny small-town facades may conceal dark mysteries. Nor can it lie entirely in the satisfaction of prurient curiosity by its admittedly vivid depiction of violent sexual aberration.

Juvenile horror films reveal a powerful contemporary craving for images of violence, degradation and morbid putrefaction. Perhaps *Blue Velvet* is a more grown-up version of this strange contemporary catharsis. The ant-ridden ear may in the end be closer to *Nightmare on Elm Street* than to the severed hand in Buñuel's and Dali's *Un Chien andalou*.

For an Easter holiday outing, the kids will probably rate Flight of the Navigator, directed by Randal Kleiser, as only average. It has the merit of a tidy, logical story (the 12-year-old hero, kidnapped by things from outer space, is returned home unchanged eight years later, so that his younger brother has become his older brother) but otherwise is standard stuff with its happy family, NASA nasties and playful extraterrestrials who get a taste for American idiom and culture.

The nature of the *Star Trek* series is that each begins with an elaborate, speeded-up the-story-till-now recapitulation, and then launches into preposterous and fairly incomprehensible new plots. In The Voyage Home – Star Trek 4 the mission of our (noticeably ageing) heroes is to return to the 20th century to bring back some humpbacked whales – extinct in their 23rd century – since these charming beasts alone can understand the language of a lethal probe that is threatning their planet.

This takes some working out, and probably is not worth the trouble. The main point is that it permits the Star Trekkers to visit 1986, which saves on special effects and makes for some cheerful cross-culture comedy. Naturally their 23rd-century garments do not turn a head in San Francisco, apart from a justified jibe that Kirk (William Shatner) and Spock (Leonard Nimoy) look like Robin Hood and Friar Tuck. Quips and character oddities rather than drama keep the series going, though this episode is rather weighed down with save-the-whales propaganda. It was directed by spike-eared Spock himself.

David Robinson

JAZZ

Steve Lacy etc
Shaw Theatre

When a concert is built around the work of two jazz composers, it would seem reasonable to expect the performers to tell the audience the names of the pieces it is hearing. Perhaps a jazz musician could be excused for assuming a general familiarity with the works of Thelonious Monk, but no such assumption could be made in connection with Herbie Nichols, a lesser-known figure of similar temperament whose compositions were played alongside those of Monk by an all-star quintet at the Camden Jazz Week on Wednesday.

The two Americans in the band – Steve Lacy (soprano saxophone) and George Lewis (trombone) – and their three Dutch colleagues – Misha Mengelberg (piano), Ernst Reyseger (cello) and Han Bennink (drums) – chose to keep us in the dark, which seemed like an insult to the memory of two great jazz composers and took the bloom off the music, which varied from the inspired (Lacy) to the absurd (Bennink).

Two nights earlier, Gavin Bryars's special commission to compose a work featuring the double bassist Charlie Haden had been one of the most eagerly awaited events of the festival. Haden came to prominence with Ornette Coleman, anchoring the early quartets with a plain-spoken but very personal approach that Bryars celebrated on Monday evening in "By the Vaar", scored for a 14-piece ensemble (13 strings plus a bass clarinet) and conducted by Dave Smith.

Frankly, not much happened beyond the creation of a mood of sombre tranquillity within which Haden could display his repertoire of bent notes, strummed chords and bluesy pedal-points – all of which, and more, had already been heard earlier in an absorbing unaccompanied sequence.

Bryars's penchant for a kind of high-grade New Age music was also in evidence in "Sub Rosa", a tentative pastorale for sextet in which the use of a cello bow on the metal keys of a vibraphone was added to this listener's treasury of experience, and "My First Homage", an attempt to evoke the spirit of the late Bill Evans, whose music was often as pretty as Bryars's but never so passive.

The evening's liveliest offering came during the performance of two of Ornette Coleman's chamber works. One, "The Sacred Mind of Johnny Dolphin", featured the strange, oblique drumming of the composer's son, Denardo Coleman, and contained a thoroughly unfair amount of high-register trumpet work. The other, "Poets and Writers", was interpreted by the Balanescu String Quartet with enormous élan and, in its rhythmic vivacity and generally imaginative use of light and shade, seemed easily the most interesting piece Coleman has yet created in this idiom.

Richard Williams

CONCERT

Bournemouth SO/ Handley
Poole Art Centre

Symphonies, even ninth symphonies, are no longer the rareties they were 20 years ago, but Robert Simpson still stands powefully alone in his symphonic single-mindedness, in the insistence with which his music presents itself, in his total lack of pretence or conscious irony.

The first performance of his Ninth Symphony on Wednesday evening, by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Vernon Handley at the Poole Arts Centre, was predictably an emphatic occasion.

Also predictable by now are Simpson's symphonic premises. His own note refers to Bruckner and Bach, both of them clear points of reference. His description of the first part of his immense four-movements-in-one structure as a "vast chorale prelude" is apt, but it could apply to much else in a work so directed by a purposeful bass-line and so solidly ordered in its counterpoint; and equally the spacious opening and the massive harmonic architecture can be related to Bruckner, though I could not put my finger on the specific homage which the composer challenges his audience to identify.

Other ancestors, however, are very evidently lending support, not least Sibelius in the ostinatos of gathering tension and Nielsen in the energized angularity and the inextinguishable force of the major climaxes: both are, of course, composers on whom Simpson has written with the insight of a comrade at arms.

More surprising is the echo of Tippett, in the first part particularly, thought perhaps this is merely an adventitious result of working so much with fourths. However, the shadow of Shostakovich, which darkens over a string elegy at the midway point and again over the final slow, ethereal coda, is more pervasive, and perhaps more indicative of the compulsion that lies behind this music.

Though Simpson seems to work naturally with assumptions that were imposed on Shostakovich – those of music as essentially tonal, progressive and even heroic in its aspirations – one senses something of the suppression that has been necessary for him to achieve that "naturalness".

One senses it not only in the symphony's bleaker moments but right through in the striking absence of large thematic ideas. Given that the work lasts for more than three-quarters of an hour, it is extraordinarily lacking in tangible tunes: Simpson's effort is all towards the harmonic growth of his music, with the result that melodies tend to be journeys through pitches made inevitable by the harmony, just as orchestral colouring is subdued to the needs of clear counterpoint and appropriate weight.

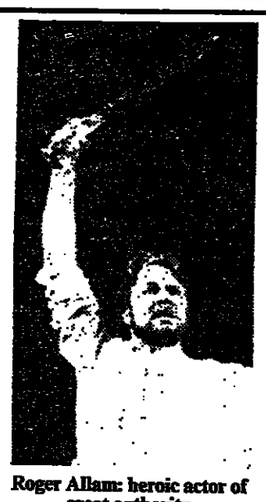
The work was conducted by Mr Handley with all the required energy and largeness of thought, thought it will surely receive performances that are better played. May the next be at the repeat in Southampton tonight, which is to be broadcast.

Paul Griffiths

All a dream

THEATRE

Julius Caesar
Stratford



Roger Allam: heroic actor of great authority

In one of the few fully-lit scenes of Terry Hands's production, Caesar – in the person of a grimly scowling David Waller – bears down on Cassius (Sean Baker), telling him to his face that men of his sort cannot stand the sight of "a greater than themselves", and forcing him down on to his knees. Whatever the future of Rome under this crowned warlord, Cassius would certainly have been in for a bad time.

You expect Cassius to be a realist, of course, paired with an idealist co-conspirator. What Mr Hands has done is to expand these labels and push the contrast to the expressionist limit. Cassius has a rancorous, totally self-interested motive for the assassination. For Roger Allam's Brutus, it is an extension of his own myth. He lives exclusively in the dream of his own nobility; just as Caesar lives entirely inside his dream of power.

The play itself is staged as a dream, following on from last season's *Macbeth* as another fatal cycle of events unrolling in an undefined location with no interval. Farrah's set consists of three monumental brick walls. The lighting (also by Mr Hands) is almost entirely directional, and designed as an Appiaesque commentary on the action. At the opening, it softens the brickwork into the appearance of cloth, with three spreading bloodstains on the back wall.

Light supplies the illusion of smoking altars, and the pestilential glare of the prophetic storm. Cowled conspirators arise from nowhere, each lit with a sepulchrally sealed beam from overhead. The stage is a black cavern where spotlit groups are backed with glimpses of reflecting helmets, the white stick of the invalid Decius and the bodyless mask of Caesar's ghost. From the first sight of his giant golden statue, the action is punctuated by a Mahlerian death-march by Guy Woolfenden.

This is not the kind of setting for the common people of Rome. They get a quick benighted walk-on in the first scene; and they get their chance to do away with Cinna the poet. Otherwise, they are unseen. *Julius Caesar* without the mob sounds like the ultimate theatrical solecism; and the production pays a heavy penalty for its absence. Come the funeral scene and the conspirators make a bloodstained walkdown to the verge of the stage (one of far too many walkdowns) for Brutus to talk us round to his point of view.

The luckless Antony (Nicholas Farrell) then has to follow suit and exercise his oratorical magic on swaying the inflammable passions of a house full of docile American visitors and exasperated reviewers. How, you wonder, is he going to get any feedback? The answer, sad to say, consists of a pre-recorded chorus of "The will! The will!", emitted from the wings while Antony continues to pound the customers out front.

Thus does the production cancel out the great moment of a tumultuously crowded stage suddenly left bare as the mob fury explodes. It says much for Mr Farrell that he delivers the speech on a rising arc of passion. Physically lightweight for the role, he brings extraordinary emotional resources to it.

The big breakthrough is that of Mr Allam, who emerges as an heroic actor of great authority and a verse-speaker of many eloquent registers, all imprinted with his personal music. It is a voice equally attuned to regret, philosophic resolve, command and towering rage. Repeatedly he transmits the experience of a desperate thought-process. He also shows Brutus the self-idealizing actor. I have not seen a more complete performance of this role.

Irving Wardle

The Tourist Guide
Almeida

The botched production four years ago of an earlier play by Botho Strauss may be responsible for the further delay in showing his work here. This new play dates from 1985. It is penetrated by the experience of Greece, a burning, harsh and dangerous Arcadia where the gods are not gone, even though a person must become half mad before catching a glimpse of them.

The power of the place is magnificently expressed in Hildegard Bechtler's set: fragments of tiled pavement, remnants of steps and the great square arch, weathered at the joints but still upright and blazing white.

The play starts within the ruins of Olympia, where the long-legged Kristine bounds on spouting archaeological statistics to a solitary tourist, Martin (Paul Freeman). Tilda Swinton judges her gait and voice perfectly. Abruptly the two become lovers; they part, meet again, again part. Actor and actress give this progress quite an exceptional feel of reality, but Strauss provides intriguing, tense dialogue for them to work on, and the scrupulous direction by Pierre Audi creates the excitement, but absence of rush, that can characterize early stages of an affair.

The writing is formally unusual, and superbly translated by Tinch Minter and Anthony Vivis. There are scenes where only one of the characters speaks, others where neither speaks. Echoes of Greek myth vibrate around the situation, much as later scenes are separated by echoes of words taken from the scene just ended. Dionysus is never far off, and there are memories of *The Bacchae* in Martin's distracted passion for the girl half his age.

A precise man (inevitably a teacher), nervous when facing disorder, we see him maddened by the impulsive, floating creature he can never net in words. Isolated in a shepherd's hut throughout the broiling summer heat, his wits turn. Passions become violent – though Strauss is so selective of details in the later scenes that I lost hold of his drift.

But performances remain engrossing to the end. Notice Miss Swinton's variety of speech on the telephone, her desperation when camped outside his window. And Mr Freeman's torpid stare, the subtle emphasis on the word "doomed" that signals insincerity. A strange, powerful play.

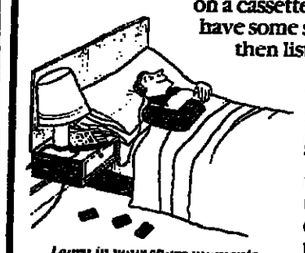
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Royal visit helps combat Aids fears

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

The Princess of Wales yesterday made known her condemnation of prejudice and discrimination towards Aids victims after meeting nine homosexual men suffering from the disease in a London hospital.

During a visit to Britain's first purpose-built ward for Aids sufferers, at the Middlesex Hospital, the Princess shook hands with all the patients, sat on the edge of their beds and chatted with them.

Senior medical staff said they found her concern for the patients very moving and were in no doubt that the Princess made exceptional efforts to help demolish misconceptions about the risks of infection from sufferers.

She seemed well-informed, needed no reassurances and did not wear any protective clothing.

Her visit, officially to open the ward, was considered invaluable by leading Aids specialists and nursing staff in combating hostile attitudes encountered by many victims of the disease.

Some of the patients had lost their jobs or their homes as a result of discrimination.

Professor Michael Adler and Professor Stephen Semple, the two most senior physicians involved in treating the patients, said later they hoped the Princess's visit would go a long way towards changing public attitudes about the disease and its victims.

"It came across to us very strongly that Her Royal Highness was very concerned about the hysteria that has surrounded Aids. She almost apologized to us for it," Professor Adler said.

"She was very positive in condemning the rather unfortunate situations we have seen in the last three or four years."

"Her attitude completely outstripped my personal expectations."

However, fears of being identified were so strong among the patients that none would allow themselves to be named or photographed with the Princess, with the exception of one man who agreed to be photographed from behind.

The patients ranged in age from a man in his early 30s to one aged 67, with whom the Princess chatted for ten minutes about opera.

Professor Semple said: "The Princess sat on the beds and talked at length about their lives and their problems.

"Indeed, we had to move her along otherwise her stay on the ward would have been too long." As it was, Her Royal Highness the Princess stayed 20 minutes more than planned.

"Her visit shows how safe ordinary, day-to-day contact with Aids patients is," he said.

Although the ward is not intended for terminal care, some patients with Aids have died there since the first admissions in January.

The men in the ward yesterday were being treated for manifestations of Aids such as Kaposi's Sarcoma, a form of skin cancer.

Sister Jacqui Elliott, who is in charge of the ward, said: "We are caring for people who are living with Aids, not dying from Aids."

Public awareness of Aids has risen sharply since December after intensive coverage of the disease on television, the Independent Broadcasting Authority said last night.

A MORI poll of 1,004 people aged between 16 and 54 commissioned by the IBA and conducted in the last two weeks of March showed that 77 per cent of the public now believes they know a lot or a fair amount about Aids. Only 48 per cent claimed similar knowledge last December.

The poll showed that as public awareness has increased, there is less support for coercive measures to control its spread. In the March poll, 58 per cent supported mandatory blood testing of the entire population, compared to 63 per cent in December.

Tolerance of homosexuality stood at 50 per cent in the new poll, compared to 45 per cent in December.



A girl wearing traditional Czechoslovak costume presenting Mr Gorbachov with bread and salt in Prague yesterday.

Prague crowds greet Gorbachov

From Richard Bassett, Prague

The shadow cast over Czechoslovak-Soviet relations by the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia seemed to evaporate yesterday as Mr Gorbachov was mobbed by tens of thousands of enthusiastic Czechoslovakians during a walkabout in Prague.

The Soviet leader arrived in Prague yesterday morning for a three-day visit widely seen as crucial for Czechoslovakia's future.

Although his walkabout was not announced officially, thousands of people gathered at the bottom of Wenceslas Square, where the presence of policemen and television cameras built up later in the afternoon.

Many said they knew Mr Gorbachov would be there because of a photograph on the front page of yesterday's evening paper, *Verceni Praha*, showing the square and captioned enigmatically as "an area increasingly popular in Prague".

During his 45-minute walkabout, the Soviet leader joked with young students, asking when they would come to Moscow. "Soon, soon we hope," many replied.

Though it is doubtful whether he knew any faces of Charter 77 dissidents who were also to be seen in the front row of those waiting for him, Mr Gorbachov smiled and exchanged words with those around Mr Jiri Dienstbier, one of Prague's most prominent dissidents.

Others in the crowd cried, "Mikhail, Mikhail, stay here in Prague. We wish you to stay longer."

Earlier, Mr Gorbachov had held long talks after lunch with the Czechoslovak leader, President Husák and members of the Politburo. The fact that the talks lasted longer than planned was seen as significant by Western diplomats.

After his triumphant walkabout, Mr Gorbachov returned to the Soviet Embassy before attending a banquet in his honour at Hradacany Castle.

● Soviet message: Mr Gorbachov brought his message of change to Czechoslovakia in talks with President Husák (Reuter reports).

But no details of the discussions with the 74-year-old leader were disclosed.

The President made clear last month that his Politburo was ready to embrace the principles of Mr Gorbachov's reforms.

The Soviet leader postponed the visit, initially due to start on Monday, saying he had a slight cold but there was widespread Western press speculation over the delay. There have been no signs that it was due to last-minute strains between Moscow and Prague.

Embassy bugging dispute continues

Continued from page 1

Asked if the American state-of-the-art was ahead of the Russian, Mr Miroshkin said: "I will leave technical comparison to the experts. But if they are better I believe they will take it into account in future work."

Further questioned on whether the eavesdropping devices had inflicted any damage, Mr Pyadyshev said: "That is measured not in money but in political terms, in damage in relations between the two countries, and to the atmosphere in the world."

And in a clear reference to the Shultz talks, he said: "We have not dramatized this situation because of important international dialogue."



Alleged American bugging equipment being displayed in Moscow yesterday

The Soviet allegations appeared to be partly confirmed by comments made by Mr John Warnecke, who helped designed the $65 million (£40.6 million) new embassy complex in Washington. He said that in 1979 the US tried to introduce eavesdropping devices into flats at the complex.

Discovery of "bugs" led the Soviet Union to disassemble parts of the new chancery building, minutely inspect other parts and X-ray "each inch of steel the night before it was put up". He described how Soviet workmen moved scaffolding over the entire skin of the building with X-ray equipment looking for "bugs".

Mr Warnecke said the Soviet Union paid $180,000 to have windows and window frames taken apart, inspected and reassembled on the site. They also paid an extra $40,000 to $50,000 for structural steel to be delivered in small loads

New deliveries of children's "magic slates" were ensuring that diplomats can communicate safely by writing eraseable notes to each other.

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Etiquette of how to get thrown out

In the protocol-conscious world of investigative Labour backbenchers, it is considered bad form not to get thrown out of the chamber from time to time.

A campaigning backbencher who has not been ejected from the place at least once is like an American Eng. Lit. professor who has not published anything on the Bloomsbury Group. He can be a perfectly good backbencher. But it looks bad on job applications, such as for membership of the Labour National Executive.

Yesterday, Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab), Regius Professor of Westland Studies on the Labour backbenches, put a question about some allegedly new evidence in his field. He said it revealed "the depth of the Prime Minister's deception of Parliament in this matter."

It is out of order for one member to accuse another of deception of Parliament. It is in order for one member to accuse another of deception of the electorate. That is because the electorate tends not to take itself seriously. So, before the Secretary for Defence could answer, the Speaker quickly interrupted Mr Dalyell to say: "No one deceives anyone in this place."

He added: "The Hon. Member must rephrase that, please." Mr Dalyell: "I'm saying this as a fair precis of. . ." The Speaker: "Order. I urge the Hon. member to withdraw the remark."

This is the critical moment in any throwing-out. Etiquette dictates that, if the campaigning Labour member has a serious chance of receiving the coveted invitation to get out of the chamber, he should say nothing courteous. On no account should he make any observation which implies that he is withdrawing the remark.

It is also the point at which most members do indeed withdraw the remark or devise a way of saying it in such a way as to bring it within the rules of order. Otherwise campaigning Labour members would be thrown out every day. They would all become electable to the National Executive. Extra places on that body would have to be found for them.

The electorate for the National Executive is made up of the Labour Party activists. On the whole, such people approve of Parliament only as a place to get thrown out of. But after a while, it would become a point of honour among MPs elected to the National Executive to get thrown out of meetings of that body as well. Labour politicians would start getting elected to it on the strength of their chances of being thrown out of it. The system would break down.

So getting thrown out of the Commons is a tactic to be used sparingly. Not all campaigning Labour backbenchers can be martyrs all the time. It is not like doing your national service in Iran.

Fortunately, Mr Dalyell has perfect taste on these occasions, as well as vast experience. Before moving into Westland, he held the Galtieri Chair in Belgrano Scholarship in the same centre of learning. In that capacity, and in other subjects before that, he published several sudden departures from the chamber.

So when the Speaker urged him to withdraw, Mr Dalyell replied: "No, Mr Speaker." The Speaker: "If the Hon. Member doesn't rephrase his question, I must ask him to resume his seat."

Resume his seat! Was that all? For a moment, Mr Dalyell was disheartened. The traditional climax of the occasion is for him to get thrown out. But here was the Speaker threatening him merely with having to resume his seat. It was obvious that Mr Dalyell thought that this was disgraceful behaviour by the Speaker. He told the Speaker that the only "reasonable thing" to do was to leave the chamber. Mr Dalyell walked out. The authors of manuals of bad behaviour for MPs will argue about it for years. But as far as Mr Dalyell was concerned, it was a throw-out.

What was the Chair coming to, he undoubtedly asked himself, as he trudged away. Asking a chap to resume his seat when he'd just taken the trouble to refuse to withdraw an insult! Happily, breeding showed in the end.

Range Rover success brings 600 new jobs

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Land Rover is to create 600 new jobs at its Solihull plant, where production of the Range Rover has reached record levels.

The unexpected news that the workforce of 7,800 is to be substantially increased comes a month after the launch of the Range Rover in the lucrative American market. Land Rover production, however, remains depressed.

The company expects to sell 3,000 Range Rovers in its first year in North America. Production of 15,500 Range Rovers in 1986 is expected to increase to 20,000 this year with British and Continental sales rising by 10 per cent.

Europe already accounts for half the sales of the £18,000 vehicle, and the launch of a long overdue turbocharged diesel version has greatly improved demand in France and Italy, where derv is relatively inexpensive.

The new jobs will be created across the Solihull site, even though Land Rover output has yet to recover from the slump last year.

Production reached a 30-year low of 21,000 vehicles, compared with more than 50,000 a year in the past. Demand in Britain is still slipping, though a new diesel model has started to lift sales on the Continent.

Low commodity prices and depressed oil revenue have wiped out demand in Third World countries.

Younger's £300m order bails out Westland

Continued from page 1

on him by stating that overall the Government had "the intention to order" 98 helicopters. Apart from the 25 EH101s and 16 Lynxes announced yesterday, there was also a requirement for 50 of the naval version of the EH101 and another seven Sea King helicopters. Ministry of defence sources claimed that the 98 helicopter orders would be worth about £1 billion.

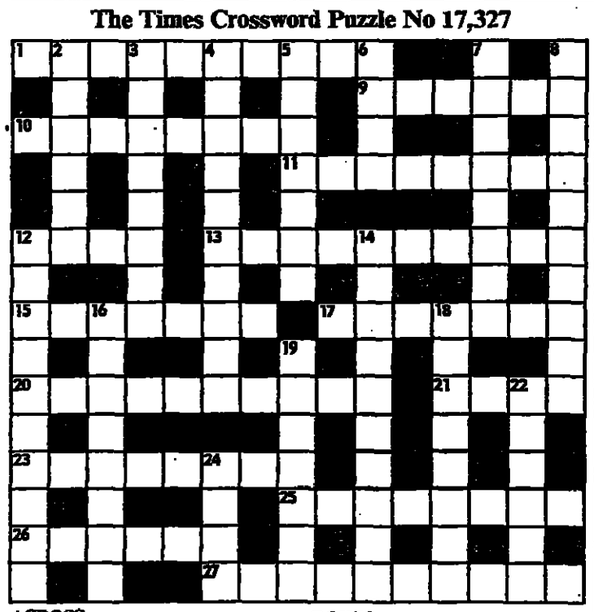
Mr Younger confirmed that Britain was to pull out of the five European nation collaborative project, NH90, which is at the study phase. Mr Younger said that with the purchase of the EH101 medium helicopter, there was no need for the smaller NH90. The EH 101 is built in collaboration with the Italian company Agusta.

Ministry sources said that the cost of yesterday's orders would be closer to £400 million, which would come out of the defence budget, apart from the £50 million to £100 million for the 16 Lynx helicopters.

The statement by Mr Younger made no reference to the Black Hawk helicopter built by the US company Sikorsky, which bailed out Westland last year. Sikorsky has been told that there will be no requirement for its large helicopter, which is also being manufactured.

Mr Younger denied in the Commons that Sikorsky's stake in Westland had any relevance to the Government decision.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,327



ACROSS

1 Sounds a pitiless task, this embroidery (6-4).
9 Open a French roll (6).
10 How silly goose is immured in US gaol (8).
11 Queen Mab "no bigger than an agate-stone" on his forefinger (*R & J*) (8).
12 Old character employed to raise birds, we hear (4).
13 Final result is a goal by offspring (3-7).
15 This chap is silly, at the opposite end to point (3-4).
17 He expels empty-headed Hugo (7).
20 Small boy sounds mad about the Royal Artillery, for example (10).
21 The old school mother left her (4).
23 Future fiancée (8).
25 Very catchy record by Medici originally (8).
26 Braved awkward part of speech (6).
27 Like primordial gods, a destructive antique set (10).

DOWN

2 Is that bird going the other way a greenhorn? Yes (6).
3 Weak drink will hold water (4-4).
4 The price one pays for bargeing? (10).
5 Relating to key features ahead (7).
6 Might he be called a dogged tribesman? (4).
7 Overcome on French Alp (8).
8 The song of Venus, say, to heavenly models (10).
12 With the agreement of both sides, bat in pairs perhaps (10).
14 Wheeling about, after right turn (10).
16 Reject development (8).
18 Crazy fireworks (8).
19 Musical prince at university (7).
22 1,000 to one on a place in this setting (6).
24 You won't recover from a bad one (4).

Concise Crossword, page 10

Solution to Puzzle No 17,326

H	O	R	D	E		S	H	E	L	B	A	C	K	
I		A		C		H		L		I		C		A
G	E	T	S	T	H	E	R	E		E	N	T	R	Y
H		H		O		R		G		N		U		A
C	H	E	A	P		B	E	A	N	S	T	A	L	K
O		L		E				N		R				
U	P	S	T	A	R	T		T	E	R	M	I	N	I
R		N		S				E		A		N		
T	R	A	M	M	E	L		E	M	A	L	E	S	
		K		O		O		A				I		
F	R	E	E	O	F	F	E	R		I	B	S	E	N
L		B		D		T		E	N	P		C		
A	L	I	B	I		T	M	M	E	D	I	A	T	E
G		T		U		E		E		I		R		
S	T	E	A	M	I	R	O	N		R	A	N	G	E

WEATHER

Apart from residual rain over northern isles all districts will begin dry and bright with some morning sunshine. Showers will soon develop in western districts and these will gradually spread eastwards, merging to give longer and heavier outbreaks of rain during the late afternoon and evening before clearer weather follows from the north west. Temperatures will be a little below normal. Outlook: Showers on Saturday will die out in the afternoon giving clear overnight periods with a touch of ground frost. After a dry sunny start on Sunday, cloud and rain will spread across all areas.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder.

	C	F		C	F
Ajaccio	c	17	63	Majorca	s	21	70
Alicante	s	21	70	Malaga	s	20	68
Algiers	f	25	79	Malta	f	21	70
Amst'dam	c	12	54	Melb'rne	s	15	59
Athens	s	20	68	Miami*	f	23	73
Bahrain	s	24	75	Milan	r	11	52
Barbados*	f	30	86	Montreal*	c	6	43
Barcelna	f	19	66	Moscow	s	2	36
Belgrade	c	18	64	Munich	f	16	61
Berlin	r	18	61	Naples	s	19	66
Bermuda*	r	18	64	N Delhi	s	30	86
Biarritz	r	12	54	N York*	c	11	52
Borde'x	c	14	57	Nice	r	13	55
Brussels	c	12	54	Oslo	f	3	37
Budapest	c	13	55	Paris	c	13	55
B Aires*	f	21	70	Peking	r	12	54
Cairo	s	24	75	Perth	c	23	73
Cape Tn	f	21	70	Prague	f	16	61
C'blanca	c	17	63	Reykjvik	r	2	36
Chicago*	c	6	43	Rhodes	c	20	68
Ch'church	c	15	59	Rio de J	s	27	81
Cologne	c	13	55	Riyadh	f	31	88
C'phagn	c	3	37	Rome	s	19	66
Corfu	s	19	66	Salzbrg	s	17	63
Dublin	r	9	48	S F'isco*	f	19	66
Dubrovnik	f	17	63	Santiago*	s	24	75
Faro	f	17	63	S Paulo*	f	26	79
Florence	f	19	66	Seoul	f	15	59
Frankfurt	c	14	57	Sing'por	f	31	88
Funchal	f	19	66	Stckholm	s	2	36
Geneva	c	10	50	Strasb'rg	c	12	54
Gibraltar	s	19	66	Sydney	c	17	63
Helsinki	s	1	34	Tel aviv	f	19	66
Hong K	c	23	73	Tenerife	f	21	70
Innsbruck	f	18	64	Tokyo	c	18	64
Istanbul	s	17	63	Toronto*	f	11	52
Jeddah	s	34	93	Tunis	c	23	73
Jo'burg*	s	28	82	Valencia	f	23	73
L Palmas	f	20	68	Vanc'ver*	f	10	50
Le Touet	f	11	52	Venice	c	13	55
Lisbon	f	15	59	Vienna	c	16	61
Locarno	c	9	48	Warsaw	c	9	48
L Angels*	s	22	72	Wash'ton*	f	17	63
Luxembg	c	11	52	Wel'ton	c	17	63
Madrid	f	14	57	Zurich	c	11	52

* denotes Wednesday's figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Scarboro	0.4	.20	11	52	bright
Bridlington	1.4	.28	10	50	shower
Cromer	4.0	.02	15	59	bright
Lowestoft	0.7	-	12	54	cloudy
Clacton	0.2	.01	11	52	cloudy
Southend	0.6	.06	12	54	cloudy
Margate	-	-	13	55	dull
Folkestone	4.7	.03	12	54	shower
Hastings	4.9	.01	11	52	sunny
Eastbourne	4.7	.02	12	54	sunny
Brighton	1.5	.02	11	52	cloudy
Worthing	1.0	-	10	50	cloudy
Littlehmptn	0.5	.01	11	52	cloudy
Bognor R	1.0	.03	11	52	cloudy
Southsea	0.7	.06	12	54	cloudy
Sandown	0.1	-	-	-	bright
Shanklin	1.1	.02	11	52	shower
Bournemth	-	.07	10	50	shower
Poole	-	.04	11	52	shower
Swanage	0.7	.04	11	52	shower
Weymouth	-	.04	10	50	dull
Exmouth	-	.07	12	54	cloudy
Teignmouth	-	.12	12	54	cloudy
Falmouth	-	.18	12	54	cloudy
Penzance	0.2	.18	12	54	cloudy
Scilly Isles	-	.15	11	52	bright
Jersey	4.0	.01	13	55	bright
Guernsey	8.4	.02	-	-	sunny
Newquay	-	.12	12	54	cloudy
Ilfracombe	-	.13	11	52	shower
Minehead	0.5	.07	13	55	shower
B'pool Airpt	-	.19	8	46	rain
Manchester	-	.15	7	45	rain
Douglas	-	.13	7	45	shower
B'ham Airpt	3.5	.15	12	54	shower
Bristol (Cnt)	2.2	.07	12	54	shower
Carlisle	-	.39	5	41	rain
London	0.4	.03	13	55	shower
Manchester	1.5	.13	11	52	shower
N'cstl-n-Tyne	-	.76	7	45	rain
Nottingham	3.5	.12	12	54	shower
Anglesey	0.6	.14	10	50	rain
Cardiff (Cnt)	0.7	.07	11	52	shower
Colwyn Bay	-	.12	-	-	drizzle
Tenby	2.5	.21	11	52	cloudy
Aberdeen	-	.23	4	39	rain
Edinburgh	-	.57	4	39	rain
Eskdalemuir	-	.18	4	38	rain
Glasgow	-	.28	5	41	rain
Kinloss	-	-	6	43	drizzle
Lerwick	2.2	-	7	45	cloudy
Prestwick	-	.24	5	41	rain
Stornoway	0.5	-	6	43	dull
Tiree	0.8	.17	8	46	rain
Wick	-	-	6	43	rain
Belfast	0.8	.08	7	45	rain

These are Wednesday's figures.

Buying The Times overseas
Algeria Dir 5.25; Belgium B Frs 60; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 200; Cyprus 80 cents; Denmark Dkr 12.00; Finland Mkk 9.00; France F 9.00; W Germany DM 3.50; Gibraltar 70p; Greece Dr 200; Holland Gl 3.50; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 2,700; Luxembourg Lf 45; Madeira Esc 200; Malta 38c; Morocco Dir 12.00; Norway Kr 10.00; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 200; Singapore $8.50; Spain Pes 200; Sweden Skr 12.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 1.00; USA $2.00; Yugoslavia Din 800.

HIGH TIDES

	AM	HT	PM	HT
TODAY				
London Bridge	—	—	12.36	5.9
Aberdeen	12.02	3.4	11.59	3.4
Avonmouth	5.30	10.0	5.58	10.4
Belfast	9.36	2.9	10.12	2.8
Cardiff	5.15	9.4	5.44	9.7
Devonport	3.55	4.4	4.32	4.4
Dover	9.44	5.3	9.57	5.7
Falmouth	3.25	4.2	4.02	4.2
Glasgow	11.07	4.1	—	—
Harwich	10.35	3.3	10.46	3.3
Holyhead	9.08	4.7	9.36	4.7
Hull	5.03	5.8	5.06	6.2
Ilfracombe	4.32	7.2	5.00	7.5
Leith	1.03	4.4	1.25	4.6
Liverpool	9.56	7.8	10.21	8.0
Lowestoft	8.44	2.1	8.02	2.1
Margate	10.45	4.0	10.48	4.0
Milford Haven	4.50	5.6	5.17	5.7
Newquay	3.45	5.7	4.11	5.8
Oban	4.43	3.3	5.14	3.3
Penzance	3.02	4.4	3.37	4.4
Portland	4.54	1.5	5.53	1.5
Portsmouth	10.05	3.8	10.35	4.1
Shoreham	9.54	5.0	10.21	5.4
Southampton	9.38	3.7	10.10	4.0
Swansea	4.45	7.5	5.17	7.7
Tees	2.21	4.3	2.28	4.5
W'ton-on-Kze	10.31	3.5	10.42	3.5

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.

THE POUND

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.36	2.24
Austria Sch	21.60	20.50
Belgium Fr	63.00	60.50
Canada $	2.18	2.09
Denmark Kr	11.57	10.97
Finland Mkk	7.63	7.13
France Fr	10.20	9.70
Germany Dm	3.075	2.915
Greece Dr	219	207
Hong Kong $	13.05	12.35
Ireland Pt	1.152	1.092
Italy Lira	2185	2075
Japan Yen	247	233
Netherlands Gld	3.48	3.28
Norway Kr	11.47	10.87
Portugal Esc	234	224
South Africa Rd	4.40	3.60
Spain Pta	213	203
Sweden Kr	10.68	10.14
Switzerland Fr	2.555	2.425
USA $	1.588	1.509
Yugoslavia Dnr	1060	960

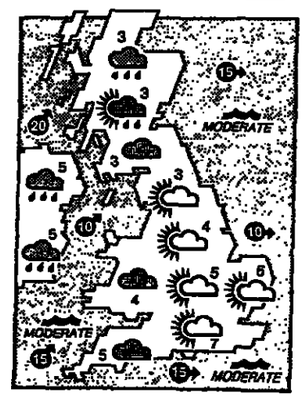
Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 100.4

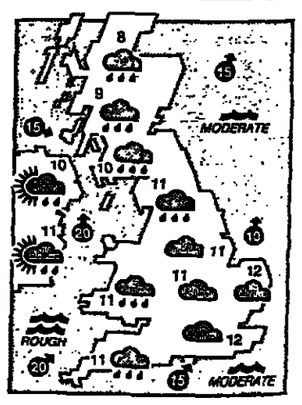
London: The *FT* Index closed down 12.4 at 1546.2

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AM



PM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 8.18 pm to 5.45 am
Bristol 8.28 pm to 5.55 am
Edinburgh 8.38 pm to 5.48 am
Manchester 8.30 pm to 5.50 am
Penzance 8.37 pm to 6.09 am

LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 13C (55F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 8C (6) Humidity: 6 pm, 71 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.03in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.4hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1001.3 millibars, rising.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F		C	F
Belfast	r	9	48	Guernsey	c	10	50
B'rmgham	c	8	46	Inverness	r	7	45
Blackpool	c	9	48	Jersey	s	12	54
Bristol	f	11	52	London	f	12	54
Cardiff	f	12	54	M'nchster	f	11	52
Edinburgh	c	9	48	Newcastle	c	9	48
Glasgow	c	8	46	R'nldsway	c	9	48

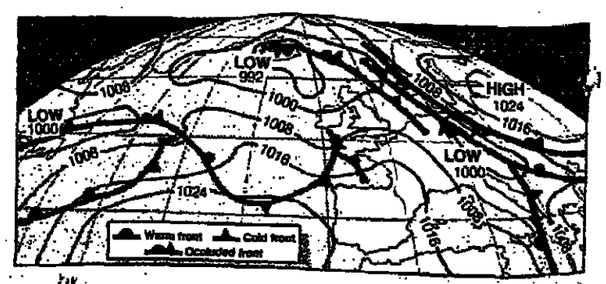
MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 6C (43F) Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.13in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.5hr.

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
6.17 am	7.48 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
5.23 am	3.32 pm

Full moon April 14

NOON TODAY



PART 2

FRIDAY APRIL 10 1987

THE TIMES

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BUSINESS AND FINANCE 19-25
SPORT 29-34
TELEVISION 33

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1546.2 (–12.4)

FT-SE 100
1962.8 (–13.9)

Bargains
38099 (37453)

USM (Datastream)
164.21 (+0.04)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6180 (+0.0055)

W German mark
2.9553 (–0.0085)

Trade-weighted
72.2 (–0.2)

Simon lifts profits to £28m

Simon Engineering, the process plant contracting and engineering company, which recently fought off a £202 million management buy-in bid by Valuedale, the shelf company, yesterday reported profits of £27.98 million for last year, up from £26.13 million in 1985.

Turnover dipped to £503.32 million last year from £539.35 in 1985, with earnings per share at 29.3p, compared with 29.2p previously. Simon is paying a final dividend of 8.8p, making 11.5p for the year.

£66m Wimpey

George Wimpey, Britain's largest housebuilder in 1986, selling 10,712 homes, yesterday reported pretax profits for the year up from £46.9 million to £66.5 million. Turnover fell 8 per cent to £1.46 billion Tempus, page 20

In tomorrow's *Family Money*, what the Finance Bill published on Wednesday means to your pension prospects, why investors wanting a stake in Rolls-Royce may be in for a big disappointment and advice on how to complete your tax return.

RTZ slips

Despite a strong recovery in the second half of the year, profits at the Rio Tinto-Zinc Corporation slipped to £245 million for the twelve months to the end of December 1986 compared to £257 million the previous year.

Tempus page 20

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	
Dow Jones	2349.72 (–22.44)*
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	22922.20 (+9.21)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	2785.47 (+55.92)
Amsterdam: Gen	293.4 (+0.6)
Sydney: AO	1771.8 (+13.3)
Frankfurt:	
Commerzbank	1843.7 (–2.5)
Brussels:	
General	4567.17 (+33.82)
Paris: CAC	452.9 (+3.2)
Zurich: SKA Gen	n/a
London: FT. A	n/a
FT. Gilts	90.55 (–0.06)

Closing prices Page 23
Recent issues Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank 9 15/16–9 7/8%
3-month eligible bills: 9 15/16–9 1/2% buying rate
US: Prime Rate 7 1/2%
Federal Funds 6 5/16%*
3-month Treasury Bills 5.63-5.62%*
30-year bonds 94 16/32–94%*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.6180	£: $1.6180*
£: DM2.9553	$: DM1.8235*
£: SwFr2.4521	$: SwFr1.5147*
£: FFr9.8261	$: FFr6.0670*
£: Yen234.29	$: Yen144.65*
£: Index:72.2	$: Index:101.6
ECU £0.723270	SDR £0.791449

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:

Glaxo	1543p (+38p)
BOC Group	455p (+22p)
Dale Electric	106p (+13p)
Crown House	303p (+68p)
Atlantic Computer	644p (+52p)
Concap	618p (+113p)
IBL	178p (+15p)
T Cowie	447p (+52p)
J England	130p (+25p)
De La Rue	401p (+21p)
Lambert Howarth	315p (+35p)
Wellcome	389p (+15p)
Wardle Storeys	495p (+30p)
AB Ports	485p (+15p)
London United	633p (+58p)
Helical Bar	930p (+80p)
Unilever	2708p (+98p)

FALLS:

BP	879p (–22p)
Coloroll	318p (–12p)
BPCC	313p (–18p)

Prices are as at 4pm

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $421.50 pm-$421.00
close $421.75-422.25 (£260.75-261.25)
New York:
Comex $426.60-427.10*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (May) pm $18.00bbl ($17.95)
* Denotes latest trading price

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£134m plan to end insurance market's shameful episode

Lloyd's tables PCW solution

By John Bell, City Editor

Lloyd's of London has proposed a final solution to the long-running PCW scandal described by Mr Peter Miller, the Lloyd's chairman, yesterday as "one of the most shameful episodes in the history of Lloyd's".

It arose after the two founders of the PCW syndicates, Mr Peter Cameron-Webb and Mr Peter Dixon, misappropriated £40 million over a period of years. Since then, gross underwriting losses have soared, leaving underwriting members or "names" liable personally for sums as high as £1.4 million.

The proposed solution reduces the gross liability of names by about 75 per cent after contributions from Lloyd's itself and other parties involved in the affair. The plan calls on approximately 3,000 names to pay sums of up to £200,000 each towards a net figure of £134 million, which Lloyd's says would be needed to settle the affair finally.

In addition to £34 million which would be provided by names, Lloyd's itself offers to contribute £48 million from its central fund, which now stands at £311 million.

The balance of £55 million will come mainly from companies which are potential defendants of legal claims in the PCW affair and which, according to Lloyd's, may be under a legal or moral responsibility to syndicate members.

These companies have agreed to contribute on the basis that they deny liability and that if the settlement is not agreed, they will fight legal actions brought by names. The companies include the accountancy firm of Josolyne, Layton-Bennet, the auditor to the PCW syndicates, Minet Group, which owned the PCW underwriting agency, and Alexander Howden, through whose companies PCW funds were siphoned abroad. No details of individual contributions are being given.

The Lloyd's proposals remain open until May 30 and need the support of at least 90 per cent of the names involved. "Without this settlement, members of the PCW syndicates face years of uncertainty," Mr Miller said.

"While members may after years of litigation establish legal rights against some of the parties responsible for the PCW affair, the full enforcement of those rights may not be possible," he added. He summed up the proposals as a fair and reasonable final settlement for the members of the PCW syndicates.

£137m skeleton.....22

Sir Ian Morrow, the chairman of Additional Underwriting Agencies (No3), a company set up to protect the interests of names, yesterday recommended the offer.

"We believe that acceptance will be seen to be in the best interests of the very large majority of names because it achieves a final resolution of the PCW affair," he said.

A separate set of proposals is being put before members of three syndicates peripherally involved in the affair. They were also recommended by Sir Ian.

The plans outlined yesterday were the results of nine months of negotiations between the parties concerned. Gross liabilities of the syndicates affected were calculated to be £680 million. Taking account of assets, including expected insurance recoveries, the net liability reduced to £235 million. The £134 million cash fund needed now is to meet present and future liabilities.

A key feature is the arrangement to finalize all future liabilities of the PCW members. Lloyd's will set up what it describes as a "dummy syndicate" which would offer a "reinsurance to close" contract, bringing all future involvement of the names to an end.

The syndicate, 9001, will consist of Mr Miller and Lloyd's two deputy chairmen, who will neither benefit nor lose from the arrangements. Syndicate 9001 will be reinsured by Lioncover Insurance, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lloyd's specially created for the purpose. Lloyd's will therefore take responsibility for any deterioration of claims experience during the run-off of the business and any failure of the PCW reinsurance arrangements.

Mr Miller revealed yesterday that Lloyd's is pressing ahead with civil actions against Mr Cameron-Webb and Mr Dixon, who are both excluded from the terms of the offer. Mr Dixon's wife is also excluded. "We are pursuing them with some vigour," Mr Miller said.

Special arrangements may be made to help names who might face financial difficulty in meeting the terms of the proposals. More than 30 names would be due to find amounts between £100,000 and £200,000

One hundred names would have to pay between £60,000 and £100,000. If anyone has a problem, we would like to hear from him," Mr Miller said. A PCW inquiry desk has been set up



Cameron-Webb: involved in misappropriating £40 million

'Pressure' for Panel to fall in with Financial Services Act

By Lawrence Lever

The Government is understood to be putting pressure on the Securities and Investments Board to bring the Takeover Panel within the regime of the Financial Services Act.

If successful, this would undermine the non-statutory and flexible nature of the Panel's control on takeovers.

In particular, it would mean that the breach of a Panel rule would give any party suffering damage as a result the right to bring an action for breach of statutory duty.

The Treasury, through the Bank of England, is understood to be behind the pressure on the SIB. The Bank is a party in the current review of the Panel's rules by regulatory authorities.

The idea is that the SIB's rulebook should incorporate a rule stipulating that all investment businesses — including merchant banks — must comply with the Panel's rules.

The self-regulating organizations would also be obliged to include this rule in their rulebooks due to the requirement that the SRO's rules should provide equivalent investor protection as those of the SIB.

However, the Treasury's plan would meet with opposition from the Panel and senior figures within the City's self-regulatory network. Objections voiced so far call the plan an unconstitutional backdoor attempt to bring the Panel within the Financial Services Act.

Bond company to take stake in satellite TV

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Mr Alan Bond, the Australian entrepreneur, plans to expand his media holdings in Britain under the auspices of a new subsidiary to be floated on the Australian stock exchange next month.

The company, Bond Media, is expected to take a £30 million minority stake in the British Satellite Broadcasting consortium, which plans to launch a satellite television service in 1989.

Mr Bond said he is continuing to examine a number of other opportunities in electronic media, but refused to be specific other than to say he has no plans to buy newspapers or magazines.

Mr Bond, aged 48, emigrated to Australia 35 years ago from Ealing, west London. He has built a business spanning brewing, mining and property. In January, he became the owner of Australia's largest commercial television network. He said yesterday that the 20-year and 50-year plans for his new company call for it to become the dominant entertainment and information company in Australia

Mr Bond's new company, to be listed on the Australian Associated Stock Exchanges, will be 50 per cent owned by Bond Corporation and 12 per cent by Dallhold, a company personally controlled by Mr Bond. Of the remaining shares, 25 per cent have been reserved for other holders of Bond Corporation shares.

● Pergamon Holdings and its associated companies, as part of its diversification in electronic media, newspaper ownership, cable and satellite television, have sold 30 million ordinary shares in the British Printing & Communication Corporation and 70.5 million ordinaries in Hollis.

IMF forecasts slowdown in world growth

From Bailey Morris and Rodney Lord, Washington

New forecasts for the world economy presented yesterday to the interim committee meeting of the International Monetary Fund raised fears of a growth recession.

The IMF now expects the industrialized nations to grow by only 2¼ per cent this year after 2½ per cent growth last year. A year ago, the fund was forecasting much higher growth in 1986 of 3 per cent and faster, rather than slower, growth in 1987 of 3¼ per cent.

At the meeting yesterday, Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, emphasized the importance of exchange rate stability to allow the world economy to adjust to present imbalances and resume a faster rate of growth. He said the world was suffering from two economic shocks — last year's fall in oil and other commodity prices and the drop over the past two years in the value of the dollar.

At a press conference earlier, Mr Lawson said the reaffirmation of the Paris accord on exchange rate stability by the Group of Seven the previous day was a satisfactory result that had also been welcomed in the wider forum of the Group of Ten.

He said the agreement had been strengthened particularly in relation to Japan, which he described as the one weakness of the Paris accord.

Mr Lawson stressed that proposals for bringing forward public works and introducing a large supplementary budget in Japan were additional to the promises made in Paris. It is almost unprecedented for a country to be singled out in a G7 communiqué.

Earlier, the Chancellor met Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese finance minister, to discuss protectionism. At his press conference Mr Lawson said: "At the highest level I think the Japanese are genuine in seeking to reduce their protectionist barriers and make their markets more open. What appears to be happening is that the bureaucracy is resisting this change of approach."

Mr Lawson emphasized that a commitment to exchange rate stability would not be enough by itself. "If we will the ends we must will the means," he said, stressing that monetary policies needed to be consistent with exchange rate stability.

In present circumstances, consistent policies were more likely to point to a cut in interest rates in Japan and West Germany, the two surplus countries, rather than an increase in the US, the principle deficit country. "An effective commitment to stable exchange rates can itself be an important discipline to encourage compatible policies," he added.

Non-American members of the G7 were, however, concerned about the slow progress in reducing the US budget deficit and anxious that the US might not continue the process of reduction for long enough. Mr James Baker, the US Treasury Secretary, pledged that the Administration would do everything in its power to prevent protectionist legislation going through Congress — a reference to certain parts of the Trade Bill.

The G7 has continued to refuse to indicate what kind of exchange rate ranges were implied by the Paris agreement, or whether they had changed since the fall in the dollar-yen rate. The communiqué said: "The ministers and governors reaffirmed the view that around current levels their currencies are within ranges broadly consistent with economic fundamentals and the basic policy intentions outlined at the Louvre meeting."

Dollar hits 40-year low against yen on G7 talks

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The dollar plunged to a 40-year low against the yen last night as dealers registered their disappointment at the outcome of the Group of Seven meeting.

It closed at Y145 in London, before dipping to Y144.30 in New York. Dealers said further dollar weakness after the Washington meetings could be expected.

By focusing on the need for action by Japan, the G7 communiqué had pinpointed the vulnerability of current dollar-yen levels, analysts said.

The Bank of Japan was reported to be intervening quite heavily around the Y145 level in support of the dollar. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York also bought dollars. Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese finance minister, said current dollar-yen levels were not out of line with the G7 agreements. But dealers believe the dollar has reached the bottom of its permitted range against the yen.

Sterling lost ground against the mark, falling 1½ pfennigs to DM2.9518, but gained 55 points to $1.6180. The sterling index dropped by 0.2 to 72.2. Analysts believe the pound could suffer if there is a period of sustained dollar weakness.

Hammerson profits rise 23% to £49.3m

By Alexandra Jackson

The Hammerson Property Investment and Development Corporation yesterday reported pretax profits up 23 per cent to £49.3 million in the year ended December 31. This included £6.7 million of gross profits from property trading, compared with £3.6 million in 1985. Gross rental income rose from £116.5 million to £127.7 million and the asset value from 559p to 610p.

Hammerson's portfolio has a strong international bias. At the end of 1986, 40 per cent of its net rental income came from the United Kingdom, with Cananda accounting for 29 per cent, Australasia 21 per cent and the United States 5 per cent. Hammerson's involvement in continental Europe is increasing — last year it accounted for 5 per cent of net rental income and this is expected to increase this year.

Currency movements had a less dramatic effect on Hammerson's results last year than they did in 1985 when they were responsible for reducing pretax profits by nearly £10 million.

Mr Sydney Mason, chairman and managing director of Hammerson, said yesterday "I am optimistic about the current year, firstly because of Hammerson's great spread of international properties, and secondly because we have no exposure to the City of London where there will soon be considerable oversupply of office space."

Coloroll pays £90m for Crown House group

By Joe Joseph

Coloroll, the rapidly growing wallpaper and home furnishings group, continued its recent buying spree yesterday with an agreed takeover of the engineering services and tableware group Crown House.

The deal, which will be Coloroll's largest acquisition to date, values Crown House at around £90 million.

Coloroll has been stalking Crown's loss-making tableware division, which turns out Denby stoneware, Thomas Webb and Edinburgh crystal, George Butler cutlery and Dema glass, and was at one time contemplating putting in a bid for the tableware activities alone.

Both companies have substantial business in the US and Coloroll feels the acquisition of Crown's tableware division will dovetail well with its own operations, providing opportunities for common sales and marketing activities.

Coloroll is offering one of its own shares, which slipped 10p to 320p yesterday on news of the recommended bid, for every Crown House ordinary share. They rose 68p to 303p. There is a 300p cash alternative.

Coloroll's offer values each Crown House share at 329p against a closing price on Wednesday of 235p. Based on Crown's reported pretax profits of £7.16 million for the year ended March 31, 1986, Coloroll's offer represents an exit price/earnings ratio of 18.6.

G7 gives new warning to Japan

From Our Correspondents in Washington

Japan has been put on notice by the industrialized countries that it must take specific steps to implement the newly reaffirmed Paris Accord or face additional actions at the Venice summit of Western leaders in June.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, said yesterday it was "even more essential now", in the context of rising protectionism and Japan's huge surplus, that it live up to the specific measures agreed in Washington. Mr Lawson, while welcoming Japan's commitment to a two-stage $36 billion growth programme, gave warning that the industrialized countries expect specific results and would review the situation at the Venice summit in June. British officials said, in taking the almost unprecedented action of singling out a specific nation in the communiqué, that the Group of Seven had signalled that their patience was at an end. Other countries, notably South Korea and the newly developing countries, described the communiqué as "a weak response to a worsening problem".

Officials declined to say whether the new Japanese commitment would be sufficient to cool strong protectionist pressures in the US Congress and to forestall additional restrictive measures against Japan by European countries. Mr Lawson met the Japanese finance minister privately to discuss Britain's concerns on Japan's telecommunications policies and reciprocity on financial services.

The Reagan administration has come under strong pressure to take the unprecedented action of filing a broad condemnation of Japan's trade and economic policies with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Geneva, sources said.

Senator Robert Packwood, a leading Republican on the finance committee, planned to introduce a new amendment to the US trade Bill scheduled for action later this month that would require the Administration to ask for relief from Japan's closed-door policies and huge trade surpluses in a Gatt filing.

If the US takes this step, it is likely to be followed by additional action by the EEC countries

EEC officials said the Article 23 filing, the broadest measure which can be taken against Japan, was now under review. "This will be a matter decided at cabinet level. We have not yet taken a formal position," said a spokesman for Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US Trade Representative.

Mr Lawson said: "It is particularly true that we wish to see the Japanese commitment fully carried out. He was responding to questions over whether the industrialized world was taking a sceptical view of the Japanese commitment.

The accord signed late on Wednesday was almost identical to the February 22 Paris agreement with the exception that it contained a specific pledge from Japan to stimulate its slowing economy and to open its markets. The agreement was regarded as a political commitment by the ruling party of Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the prime minister, despite strong opposition in the Japanese bureaucracy.

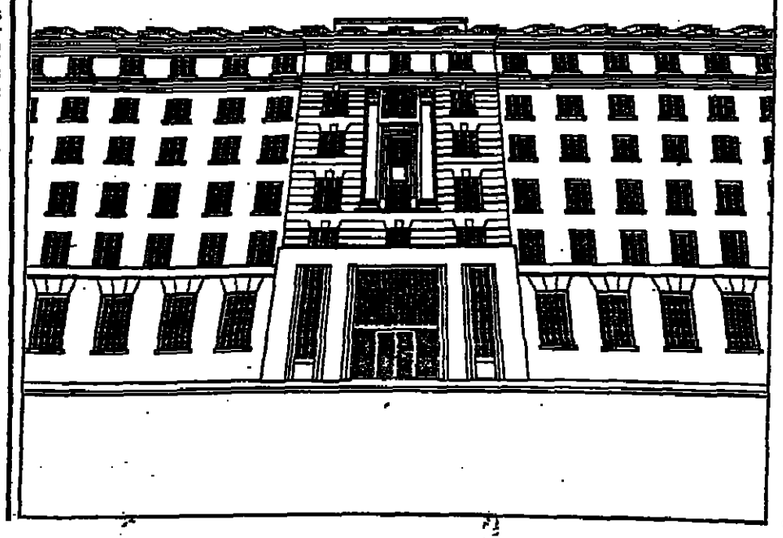
The agreement was signed as Japanese negotiators continued their talks with US officials in Washington in an attempt to avert a trade war over $300 million worth of tariffs on Japanese goods.

NABARRO NATHANSON

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STOCK MARKET

Shares sink on political fears but takeover stocks shine

By Cliff Feltham

Equities spent much of yesterday marking time, although some special-situation shares broke into a canter.

But the mood was of uncertainty over the timing of the general election and with it the prospect of any cuts in base rates. Dealers also failed to find any inspiration from the Group of Seven meeting in Washington.

So attention was focused on companies affected by trading statements or involved in takeover speculation.

As a result, the broadly-based FT-SE 100 index, which at one time managed to rise by 14.9 points, finished the day 13.9 down at 1,962.8. The FT 30 Share index closed 12.4 lower at 1,546.2.

Prices towards the end of the day were not helped by a weak start on Wall Street where, at one time, the Dow Jones industrial average was down by just above 20 points.

Government stocks were dull, off by £⅞ on worries that US interest rates could be forced up if the G7 meeting fails to find a solution to underpin the dollar.

Among equities, Unilever was again prominent on plans for the sale of its US chemicals business. The shares finished 98p higher at 2,708p.

Glaxo, with interim figures due next Monday, was 38p higher at 1,543p. RTZ, another heavyweight, was 14p better at 863p on satisfactory results.

Atlantic Computers jumped 49p to 641p on its agreed bid for Comcap – up 107p at 622p – to create a £480 million business.

Grampian Holdings, the Glasgow-based industrial conglomerate, was good for a 17p gain to 265p on the back of firm buying and a bullish circular – thought from BZW – likely to reach the market today.

The board of Martin Ford, the menswear shops group, said it had noted the rise in the share price and, although it is talking to people about possible acquisitions, nothing is on the cards at the moment. The shares eased 2p at 98p.

Lloyd's settlement terms to finally sort out the PCW scandal left insurance brokers mixed. Minet Holdings surrendered 10p to 271p, PWS Holdings gave up 3p at 314p, while Sedgwick was off 5p at 311p.

W Canning, the West Midlands manufacturer of chemicals, electronics and metals, appears to be stuck – the share price was hovering at about 193p yesterday – after a rapid rise this year.

The company has acquired a glittery image in recent months by becoming an emerging force in the United States medical services market, while profits recently came out 62 per cent higher at just above £3 million after a good performance from most of the group.

One of the best showings of the day came from T Cowie, the motor distribution and finance company. Mr Tom Cowie, the chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that the company was on target for growth this year. It had arranged a more favourable line of credit with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and in the first three months of the current year profits were at record levels "indicating that the results for 1987 will show a substantial improvement over those for 1986."

● There is a lot riding on tomorrow's FA Cup semi-final for Tottenham Hotspur, not least for shareholders hoping to see the shares finish the season above the 100p flotation price. Yesterday they were still at 97p. A place in the final could be worth another 10p, say some followers.

The shares jumped by 52p to 447p. Last year, the company more than doubled its profits to £8.2 million at a time when many in the trade were finding it hard to make money out of selling cars because the motor companies had clamped down on bonuses.

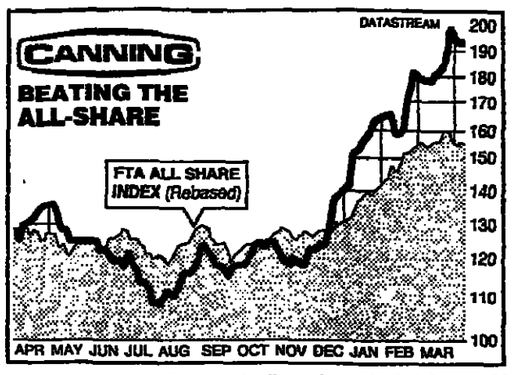
At the same time, it abandoned plans to float off its contract-hire and leasing division because the business was doing so well.

Cowie wanted to buy Appleyard, the Jaguar dealers, last year, but the motor company blocked the deal.

But it is now sitting on a stake in the Godfrey Davis garage group as well as a near 15 per cent holding in Lookers, the country's biggest Vauxhall dealers and some action on the bid front could be sooner rather than later.

Elsewhere, the motor sector looked sluggish, with Caffyns managing a 5p improvement to 413p, Glanfield Lawrence up 1p at 122p, while Lex Service came back 10p at 409p.

Boddington, the northern brewers – which does not pull as many pints as it would like in the unemployment blackspots of the north-west – has got a vote of approval from Phillips & Drew, the broker.



Mr Eric Frankis, an analyst, says the shares do not look expensive and heavy investment in the licensed estate should keep profits on the advance in the current year – he expects to see an increase from £14.4 million to £16.4 million.

But the market seems to be taking the view that the shares have already come up far enough for the time being – rising from a low of 87p to yesterday's 138p, down 1p on the day.

Whitbread Investment Company holds a 22 per cent stake in Boddington and that rules out a bid from anyone else – at least for the time being, according to some opinion in the market.

Extel appears to be defying gravity following Mr Robert Maxwell's announcement earlier this week that he would not, after all, be bidding for the news information group. There were predictions that the shares would drop at least towards the 450p level. In the event, they were finding support yesterday at 477p, up 2p on the day. Talks are still taking place to find a home for Mr Maxwell's shares.

A big jump in profits at Connells, the estate agency chain, caused the shares to perk up. Earnings rose from £2.2 million to £5.2 million, hoisting the shares by 7p at one stage before they settled at 341p, up 5p.

Addison Consultancy Group – created from the merger of Addison Page and Chetwynd Streets last year – drifted 6p lower at 150p, despite unveiling a 43 per cent jump in pretax profits to £6.34 million.

There were few dealers willing to put out the welcome mat for the hotel sector, which was marked down across the board, although Grand Metropolitan found support with a 5p rise to 481p. County Securities, the broker, is ranking the shares as a "buy." It says that overall strategy will result in the group becoming an aggressive, international consumer products company "using its considerable asset-base to promote significant earnings growth next year and beyond."

Friendly Hotels, which earlier this week asked shareholders for £8.5 million to help its expansion plans, was down 2p at 245p, with Queens Moat falling a similar amount to 81p.

Stakis shed 2p at 102p, Trusthouse Forte lost 1p at 228p and the thrusting Mount Charlotte group eased 3p at 117p. Even so, dealers are not despondent and predictions of a good summer for the tourist trade are expected to keep the sector buoyant over the coming months.

● The 600 Group has finally disposed of its loss-making scrap metal business and Mr Noel Davies, the company's chief executive, is busy trying to restore profitability to the machine tool side. But bid talk still persists and the shares still hold promise at 139p.

Dale Electric climbed by another 13p to 106p, having firmly rejected the takeover bid from Sunleigh Electronics, as the market senses the prospect of a heated battle for control of the business.

Crown House, the manufacturer of tableware and giftware, soared 68p to 303p following the £90 million, agreed bid from Coloroll, Mr John Ashcroft's company, the shares of which came back by 12p to 318p on the news.

Wardle Storeys, the industrial conglomerate in the middle of a £48 million bid battle for Chamberlain Phipps, rose by a further 30p to 495p – making a two-day gain of 48p. This followed trebled profits at the interim stage.

The market thought that it would be receiving profit figures from Aberdeen Steak Houses, the USM-quoted restaurant chain, but heard nothing. The shares stayed at 65p.

● TOKYO: The Nikkei Dow Index rose from 22,912.99 to 22,922.20. Shares inched to a third consecutive record after reports of government warnings to big securities houses about an overheated market undercut an earlier rally.

ALPHA STOCKS

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Allied-Lyons	1,200	English China	269	Rank Org	415
Amstrad	2,600	Fisons	1,300	Rank Hovis	250
Argyll	1,900	Gen Accident	499	Redland	1,000
ASDA-MFI	1,100	GEC	12,000	Reckitt Colman	575
Ass Br Foods	938	Glaxo	3,500	Reed Int	1,300
BET	1,000	Globe IT	1,400	Reuters	1,100
BTR	7,200	Granada	1,200	RMC Group	111
BAT	1,500	Grand Met	2,800	RTZ	4,500
Barclays	1,700	GUS 'A'	826	Rowntree	1,000
Bass	1,000	GRE	443	Royal B of Scot	156
Beecham	6,000	GKN	726	Royal Ins	400
Blue Circle	869	Guinness	3,300	Saatchi	1,000
BOC	2,900	Hanson	3,300	Sainsbury (J)	153
Boots	8,500	Hawker Siddeley	233	Sears	10,000
BPB Ind	269	Hillsdown	732	Sedgwick Gp	769
BPCC	9,600	Imp Chem Ind	1,200	Shell	5,100
Br Aerospace	2,500	Imp Cont Gas	778	Smith & Nephew	1,700
Br Airways	9,500	Jaguar	1,500	STC	9,300
Brit Comm	2,300	Ladbroke	1,400	Stan Chart	1,700
Br Gas	27,000	Land Securities	274	Storehouse	1,300
Br Petroleum	8,400	Legal & Gen	4,100	Sun Alliance	1,400
Br Telecom	5,700	Lloyds	464	Tarmac	530
Bristol	4,100	Lonhro	1,000	TSB P/P	2,300
Bunzl	899	Marks & Spencer	8,200	Tesco	1,600
Burton	4,500	MEPC	425	Thorn EMI	835
Cable & Wireless	9,700	Midland	192	Trafalgar House	3,100
Cadbury Schwep	2,800	Nat West	1,000	Trusthouse Forte	650
Coats Viyella	244	P & O Dfrd	626	Unigate	1,000
Com Union	871	Pearson	5,500	Unilever	822
Cons Goldfields	610	Pilkington Bros	393	Utd Biscuits	3,000
Cookson Gp	2,000	Plessey	5,100	Wellcome	6,500
Courtaulds	753	Prudential	1,300	Whitbread 'A'	2,600
Dee Corp	3,200	Racal Elect	8,100	Woolworth	1,800
Dixons Gp	2,000				

Stock prices on page 23

TEMPUS

RTZ reaps industrial rewards in tough year

Rio Tinto-Zinc usually suffers share price weakness once results are to hand. But if that happens this time round, then step in and buy.

Latest figures prove the leap into industrial interests is paying off handsomely. If RTZ can perform so well under appalling trading conditions, it will really sing if world trade starts to tick. Additionally, as an established low-cost miner of base and precious metals, it will benefit if metal prices start to shine.

After a difficult first half, and despite the oil price collapse, which seriously knocked the British side of group profits, RTZ ended last year with a smile on its face and entered 1987 with a broad grin.

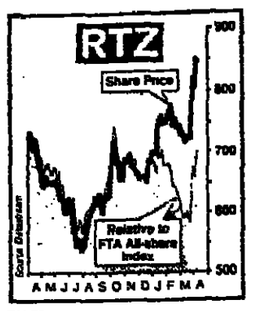
Results have been restated to reflect the changed status of the Australian arm CRA, and net profits for the year ended December were down from £257.4 million to £244.8 million. But then worse had been expected, there was still room to raise the dividend from 22p to 23.5p, and the return on operating assets was 23 per cent.

It is industrial investments, rather than mining, which drives RTZ, and this seems the area where the group will remain hungry. Chemicals, RTZ Broax and cement interests all made a strong running in 1986, and the cement division looks well-placed now the common price agreement has ended.

Energy interests held RTZ in check in 1986, with the net contribution down from £93 million to £51 million, but the oil price is off the bottom, and, roughly, every $1 change in the oil price means £3 million at the profit line.

Mining had a year of swings and roundabouts. However, there is confidence about aluminium where a 5-cent price change means between £8 million and £9 million; uranium interests at Rossing are doing well; RTZ remains interested in gold, and is poised for further developments in Brazil. In time, it could also have platinum interests.

Accounting changes for CRA see medium and long-term debt cut from £1.9 billion to £800 million, and gearing is still a manageable 35 per cent. The wild card for 1987 is exchange rates, but profit estimates have been upgraded and £270 million net looks likely, with another rise in the dividend. At 863p, up 14p, the price/earnings ratio is 9.9.



Wimpey

Unveiling Wimpey's results is less nerve-racking than it used to be. Exceptional provisions are no longer a main feature although they are not yet a thing of the past. A further £3 million was provided last year against a Singapore contract which had reduced 1985 results by £11.6 million.

Margins are widening as is the pre-interest return on capital employed – it rose in 1986 from less than 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent. The target is 20 per cent.

Operating efficiency is still improving. The rationalization of engineering and offshore will reduce losses – estimated to be up to £5 million in 1986. There are plans afoot which will have a significant impact on costs.

Despite protestations to the contrary, the group must be pleased to be Britain's biggest housebuilder, although Tarmac may win the 1987 race.

The increasing proportion of houses in the South is widening margins. However, land costs money and Wimpey spent an additional £33 million in 1986.

The South accounts for 50 per cent of unit sales but locks up 70 per cent of its capital. Overseas housing added 15 per cent to British completions of 10,712.

Property will experience the calm before the storm this year. The go-ahead for the Little Britain development, in the City of London, is expectedat the end of the month. The scheme is expected to cost £100 million to develop.

Wimpey's balance sheet is strengthening with gearing down to 38 per cent. Off balance sheet debt fell 22 per cent to £33 million.

The quality of Wimpey's earnings is higher than in the dark days of the early Eighties. However, investors are no longer prepared to be grateful if their investment in the sector manages just to produce a steady earnings progression. Indeed there are plenty about who have shaken off the industry's accident prone image and are genuinely growing.

On 1987 estimates of £77 million, the shares, on p/e of 10.7 times, do not look outstandingly cheap.

Burmah Oil

Burmah Oil needs to do two things if it wants to brighten up its investment image and improve prospects for shareholders. First, drop "oil" from its name now that it no longer manages exploration companies. Second, find a sizeable British acquisition and so escape from its Advance Corporation Tax (ACT) problem.

The ACT problem meant it had to write-off £7.6 million against net profits in the year ended December, which effectively robbed it of an additional 4p a share.

So while Burmah was able to show it has successfully reorganized on the basis of three core businesses, which in turn saw pretax profits rise from £79.6 million to £105.9 million, and beat market estimates, performance at the net earnings level was nothing to shout about. Partly because of higher issued capital after the £86 million May rights issue, made at 310p a share, and because of the ACT problem, net earnings turn out at 33.54p against 34.3p a share.

Burmah spent more than £40 million on at least eight acquisitions during 1986, with considerable investment funds going into Castrol and speciality chemicals. The upshot is that profits from lubricants and fuels advanced from £66.6 million to £93.1 million, while within speciality chemicals profits marched from £7.8 million to £11.7 million, of which at least £2 million was contributed by recent acquisitions.

For a British-based group which markets and trades internationally, the profit contribution from home operations remains inadequate. Hence the need to find something suitable, and sizeable, at home.

Trading conditions so far in 1987 have been reasonable, and though it may be a push, profits this year of £124 million should not be out of reach. The shares at 465p on a price earnings ratio of 12.6 are attractive for a group which now appears to know where it is going, and which promises a progressive dividend policy.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS TO 31 DECEMBER 1986

Burmah

PROFIT GROWTH UNDERPINS EXPANSION PLANS

Record profits from Castrol and Speciality Chemicals
Pre-tax profit up 33 per cent
Dividend increased by 10 per cent

Significant strategic developments have put Burmah in a strong financial position. The Group is well placed to seize new investment opportunities.

	1986 £ million	1985 £ million
Profit before tax	105.9	79.6
Profit after tax	56.0	52.1
Earnings per stock unit	33.54pence*	34.3 pence
Net assets per stock unit	254pence	229pence
Net gearing	2.2%	29.6%

*Taking into account the increase in the number of ordinary stock units following the rights issue

THE BURMAH OIL PUBLIC LIMITED COMPANY

The directors are recommending a final net dividend of 9.5p per £1 unit of ordinary stock. Together with the interim dividend paid last December, this will increase the total of net ordinary dividends in respect of 1986 to 14.0p per £1 unit of ordinary stock. The final dividend, if approved, will be paid on 17 July 1987 to stockholders on the register on 15 May 1987.

The figures for 1986 are abridged from the Group's full accounts. The Annual Report and Accounts for 1986 will be published on 5 May 1987, and filed with the Registrar of Companies after the AGM, to be held on 29 May 1987. If you would like to receive a copy of the Annual Report please write to The Secretary, The Burmah Oil plc, Burmah House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wilts, SN3 1RE.

IN GREAT SHAPE FOR GROWTH

SIMON ENGINEERING
PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Continuing profit growth from a well-balanced spread of activities

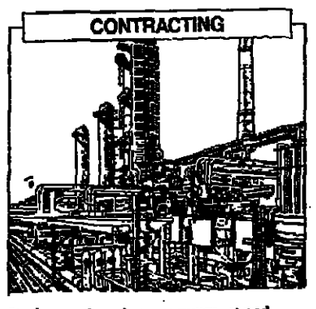
Group results for the year ended 31 December 1986

	1986 £'000	1985 £'000
Turnover	503,317	539,350
Profit before tax	27,982	26,126
Profit after tax	19,831	19,697
Profit before extraordinary items	18,381	18,242
Extraordinary items:		
Bid defence costs	(2,850)	–
Cessation of activities	(4,259)	(8,640)
Profit for the financial year	11,272	9,602
Dividends	(7,441)	(5,487)
Profit retained	3,831	4,115
Earnings per Ordinary share before extraordinary items	29.3p	29.2p

The accounts above are abridged versions of the audited accounts for which the reports of the auditors were unqualified. The 1985 accounts will be filed with the Registrar of Companies.

- Fifteenth successive year of profit growth
- Visible benefits accrue from strategic investments in manufacturing operations
- 35% increase in total dividend
- International scope expanded by means of carefully selected acquisitions

CONTRACTING



Design, engineering, procurement and construction of large scale chemical, bulk handling and industrial process plants.

SPECIALISED EQUIPMENT



For flour and food preparation; corrugated carton manufacture; overhead access; coal preparation, effluent treatment.

SERVICES TO INDUSTRY



Bulk storage and distribution of chemicals and fuels; specialised services to oil and gas producers.

"...our activities, especially those operating in and exporting from the U.K., should benefit from the continuing improvement in the economic and trading position of this country ... management is looking for further profit improvement in 1987."
Harry Harrison, Chairman

SIMON ENGINEERING PLC
Cheadle Heath, Stockport, Cheshire SK3 0RT

Secret £3m claim by Guinness 'scurrilous'

By Lawrence Lever

Mr Thomas Ward, a Guinness director, yesterday accused the company of coordinating a worldwide campaign against him so as to "create the appearance" of "a desperate international hunt for money alleged to have been secreted mysteriously" by him.

He described as "scurrilous and insupportable" Guinness's claim that he had agreed a secret deal for Mr Ernest Saunders, the former chairman and chief executive, to receive a £3 million payment from the company.

Mr Ward's evidence was in an affidavit read out in the High Court in London on the second day of a hearing to determine whether orders freezing Mr Ward's and Mr Saunders's British assets should stand.

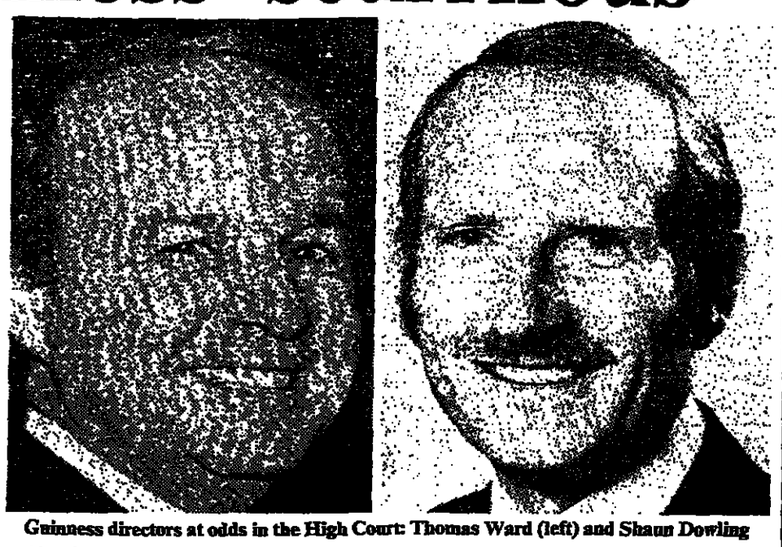
Guinness obtained the orders as part of its legal proceedings against both men over a £5.2 million payment made to a Jersey nominee company.

Mr Ward claims the payment was made in return for services he provided during the takeover of the Distillers Company.

Guinness is seeking the return of the money and alleged on Wednesday that £3 million of it was a secret payment to Mr Saunders. Mr Saunders denies that he had any beneficial interest in the money.

Yesterday Mr Ward revealed he had used $4.715 million (£2.87 million) of the money "to pay US tax obligations".

Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, told Mr Peter Curry, QC, counsel for Mr Ward, that he should obtain details from his client of when the tax was actually paid and what exactly it was in respect of.



Guinness directors at odds in the High Court: Thomas Ward (left) and Shaun Dowling

Mr Ward added in his affidavit that he would obtain a tax refund, which he was advised he could do, in the event of the court ruling in favour of Guinness.

He described the affidavit of Mr Shaun Dowling, a Guinness director, as "grossly inaccurate" and said that Mr Dowling "had absolutely no involvement in, or personal knowledge of, the events at issue".

He claimed that in January this year Mr Dowling had told him that "you cannot afford to stand up to a fight against the Guinness treasury".

"Each of Guinness's lawsuits have been accompanied by banner headlines aimed at bolstering Guinness's image at the expense of myself. Such news accounts can only be the products of leaks from Guinness," he said.

"It would appear that Guinness has far preferred to demonstrate to the public and its shareholders that its new management is pursuing all claims, regardless of wisdom or cost, to demonstrate vigilance and that board members who previously managed the company's affairs are now regarded as enemies of the company," he added.

He accused Guinness of failing to pay $600,000 of fees due to his American law firm. He asserts that the injunction to freeze his assets was unnecessary since, he says, he offered to put "the relevant sums" in an escrow account. Mr Dowling, in his affidavit, in response yesterday, described the offer as a "ploy".

Mr Ward details the services which he claims to have provided in return for the £5.2 million and accuses Guinness of "a disingenuous attempt to belittle" them.

As for the fee of £5.2 million, Mr Ward described this as "a success fee, not uncommon in the United States". It was aimed at compensating him for being separated from his family and sidetracked from his law practice. It was also meant to "reflect both the monumental benefit to Guinness of a successful bid for Distillers and the risk inherent in a success fee".

The judge said that he was "mystified" as to what the agreement between Mr Ward and Mr Saunders had been.

In the Jersey court proceedings it had been claimed that a fixed fee would be paid, while on Wednesday Mr Saunders had said that a fee of £2.5 million had been agreed and was to be doubled if Guinness won Distillers.

The hearing continues today.

Bellwinch valued at £35m after placing

By Alexandra Jackson

More than 10 million shares in Bellwinch, the South of England housebuilder, were placed at 115p yesterday by Hill Samuel & Co, the merchant bank. The market capitalisation of the company after the placing is £35.7 million.

The 7.6 million new ordinary shares being issued will raise £8.3 million after expenses. On a forecast profit for the year to the end of June of £4.6 million, the shares at the placing price are selling on 11.4 times fully diluted earnings.

Bellwinch sells houses ranging in price from £25,000 to £186,000 under the name Roger Malcolm in London and the Home Counties, King Homes in Swindon and Webb Homes in Hampshire. It is a prominant developer in London's Docklands.

In the year to June 1986, Bellwinch completed 481 houses, but this year, because of the changing mix of the business, completions may be lower.

Application is being made to the Stock Exchange for the shares to be admitted to the Official List. Dealings are expected to start on April 16.

Commentators have drawn comparisons between this placing and the offer for sale for shares in another housebuilder, Charles Church, which closed oversubscribed yesterday morning.

Charles Church's shares were offered on a higher price earnings ratio, and City analysts were unhappy that much of the money raised is being taken out of the business. This is not so in the case of Bellwinch.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Clearing banks in the Brazil debt shadow

Brazil meets its western creditors today for the start of serious negotiations on rescheduling its $109 billion debt. So far the meetings between creditors and debtors have largely been probing exercises to test the ground, but they have already revealed several crucial factors.

One is the increasing irritation of the banks over Brazil's inability to come up with a plausible economic policy. That could lead to a withdrawal of short-term credit lines by many banks when the current agreement runs out in a week. That in turn could force the Brazilians to freeze the lines, as they did more than a month ago, which would only sour relations further.

There is also a growing fear that Brazil may hit a severe liquidity crisis in the second half of the year. Much depends on developments in important export markets, such as coffee, and on the world economy itself, but Brazil's reserves are already being run down to fund imports.

All of this bears heavily on how much interest, if any, banks can expect to receive this year on their Brazilian loans. This is probably the single biggest factor overhanging the clearing bank sector of the stock market at present and analysts have been waving their slide-rules over the problem.

Recent estimates by Smith New Court suggest that if Brazil continues to pay no interest on its debt for the rest of the year the reduction in bank pretax profits – whichever way they choose to account for it – looks like this: Barclays, £16.8 million; Lloyds £53.3 million; Midland £60 million; National Westminster £16.7 million.

Just as interesting, Smith New Court calculates that these sums represent about 1.5 per cent of estimated 1987 pretax profits for Barclays and NatWest, 6.6 per cent for Lloyds and 11.5 per cent for Midland.

It seems likely that the negotiations with Brazil will be protracted, yet few people doubt Brazil's genuine desire to reach an early agreement despite its belligerent tone. Earlier fears that Brazil's interest moratorium would spread to other Third World countries now look unfounded.

It is conceivable that an agreement later this year would leave the banks' full year profits relatively unaffected, however badly they seem to be hit at the halfway stage. At any rate, whenever an agreement is reached, the setback to bank profits will be reversed. In the meantime the clearers are better padded than a couple of years ago to absorb such shocks.

The chairman of JP Morgan, Mr Lewis Preston, in commenting this week on the lost revenue to his bank from Brazilian loans said that debt problems had to be taken one by one. Universal panaceas – usually proposed by zealous legislators – only created false hopes. Mr Nigel Lawson's proposal for a lower interest charge on sub-Saharan African countries looks something like a panacea for a region, but it could perhaps be made to work since it refers only to official loans from western countries. With its hundreds of commercial bank creditors, Brazil cannot hope to find a formula as neat and clean as that.

Beware the silver horse

Speculators in precious metals have switched their affections to silver. In recent weeks, it has proved the most active of precious metals, and has risen to price levels last seen in May, 1985. Traditionally it has led the precious metals parade when the sector moves, and because the metal was largely ignored when platinum was the rage and when gold came back into fashion, the argument goes that it is time for silver to catch up.

Silver is as good as any other precious metal as an inflation hedge, and the price may well have further to run. In charting terms, the metal could be good for $7.50 an ounce compared with yesterday's $6.66 level, especially as fund managers are disappointed that gold, despite two attempts, has failed to break above the $425 an ounce mark.

But before riding the silver horse, the fundamentals need careful thought. There are still massive above-ground stocks of silver; world supply-demand is virtually in balance; and any appreciable run in the price would certainly encourage stale bulls who have waited since 1983 to offload into the rally.

Some investors insist on relying on market ratios just as some people insist there is a relationship between storks and the birth rate. Indian investors have historically taken the gold/silver ratio at 35:1, but at its maximum spread last September the gold/silver ratio reached 76.1, and on yesterday's price it was still a wide 63.4:1. If 35:1 is to be believed, then on yesterday's gold price of $424 an ounce then silver should have been $12.11 an ounce. Alternatively, gold should have been at $233.10 an ounce.

Demand for silver coins last year fuelled coinage use of the metal from 12.5 million ounces to 22 million ounces worldwide, though investor preference is still for gold. Since the South African krugerrand became politically unacceptable, other countries have rushed in to fill the gap.

Silver will continue to advance while it stays in investment fashion, and if gold does break into higher ground. But there can be no guarantee that the run will last.

Addison Consultancy surges ahead 43%

By Our City Staff

Addison Consultancy Group yesterday underlined its reputation as one of Britain's fastest growing advertising agencies and public relations consultants when it reported a 43 per cent jump in profits to £6.3 million for last year. Turnover grew by £27.8 million to £85.4 million.

Addison, formerly known as Addison Page Chetwynd Streets, has just ended a hectic year of acquisitions. The purchase last June of the Taylor Nelson Group, a privately-owned market research agency, was followed in October by the takeover of AIDCOM International, a design consultancy group.

Mr Julian Broad, the chairman, who has been striving to build Addison into a sizeable communications and management consultancy group, is confident about prospects for this year.

He said: "Historically our profits have been stronger in the second half of the year

Earnings per share rose to 8.98p from 6.42p in 1985 and a final dividend of 1.7p makes 2.5p for the year.

Profits slide to £3.5m at French Connection

By Joe Joseph

French Connection, the USM-quoted fashion group, ended another disappointing chapter in its rocky career as a public company yesterday when it reported a further slide in pretax profits for the year ended January 31 to £3.5 million from £4.9 million in the previous 12 months.

Turnover crept up to £48.7 million from £41.4 million but earnings per share slipped to 12.3p from 15.6p a year earlier.

Business from the company's US associate, Best Of All Clothing, which took a sharp knock in 1985, was slow to recover last year.

At the same time, the wet, windy weather that swept Britain last spring deterred shoppers from stocking up their spring and summer wardrobes.

But the chairman, Mr Stephen Marks, is encouraged by the company's performance over the last few months and believes that "the overall feel for the first half this year is better than for the first half of the previous year. This is particularly encouraging when viewed together with a strong winter 1987 order book."

Lex buys three Sears motor distributors

Shaw & Kilburn, SMT and Gilbert Rice motor distributors are changing hands in a deal that values them at £83.4 million.

The buyer is Lex Service Group which is the sole Volvo importer in Britain and operates dealerships for Rover, Jaguar and Rolls-Royce.

Lex is paying Sears Holdings £33.4 million for the businesses, which comprise the Sears Motor Group, and is taking on £50 million of external loans. Sears collects 8 million Lex shares, placed with institutions at 400p each, and £1.4 million in cash.

Forecourt boost lifts Esso to £527m

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Esso yesterday announced profits last year of £527 million, boosting the reduced profits it made in the North Sea due to the lower world oil price with increased earning on the forecourts.

The company, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Exxon in the US, does not provide a breakdown of where it makes its profits – its chairman Mr Archie Foster yesterday said that to do so would break the habit of a lifetime – but its programme of installing new equipment at its refineries and upgrading its retail outlets with the most modern equipment has made its retail outlets increasingly profitable.

It still has the largest share of the British petrol market

Mr Foster said yesterday that the motorist is now enjoying one of the longest periods of price stability in recent history, but refused to be drawn on prospects of a price rise or cut in the coming weeks, when better weather and the Easter holiday period traditionally leads to an outbreak of new competition on the forecourts.

He did, however, confirm that Esso will continue to invest more than £1 million a day in Britain and is hopeful of bringing into operation three North Sea oil and gas projects which had been adversely affected by the fall in the world oil price. He also welcomed the recent Government tax concessions designed to stimulate activity in the North Sea.

Esso itself paid the Government £739 million in tax and on oil royalties last year, although the lower value of North Sea crude reduced this figure from the 1984 total of £1.7 billion.

Mr Foster said: "In the light of future crude price uncertainties it is primarily up to the oil industry itself, through cost reduction and innovative design, to recreate the impetus in the North Sea.

"However, in the these uncertain times, we believe that the key role that the Government can play to assist the oil industry in the pursuit of these aims, is with well targeted fiscal enhancements."

Esso is concerned that the industry demands for tax concessions to help preliminary engineering research and the development of enhanced recovery systems to extend the life of existing oilfields have been ignored.

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THE TOP PENNY SHARES OF 1986

	from	to	gain
Helicar Bar	48p	471p	+881%
Owen & Robinson	29p	265p	+813%
Titaghur Jute	24p	130p	+441%
Dwek Group	25p	120p	+380%
Burndene Inv	20p	91p	+355%
Audiotronic	4p	18p	+350%
Paul Michael	13p	58p	+346%
Hobson	10p	43p	+330%
Campari Intl	26p	107p	+311%

Prices as at November 1986 – includes adjustments for rights, scripts etc., but dividends not included.

Remember, these companies are still trading and they often have quite sizeable assets. Apart from the very few that do 'go to the wall' – and they really are surprisingly few – the only way a share price that has fallen to mere pennies to go is up.

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One down and two more to go

The equity market-making arm of the stockbroker Hoare Govett will be trading from its pitches on the floor of the Stock Exchange for the last time today. Its withdrawal from both its pitch and box over the weekend will leave just two equity market-makers – Barclays de Zoete Wedd and Morgan Grenfell – holding the fort. Its only other occupants are three fixed interest market-makers, one gilts market-maker and a handful of traded option firms. The Stock Exchange is now indicating that all market-makers will have to be off the floor by the end of the year. The 30 or so Hoare Govett employees are being rehoused in the new Broadgate development, adjacent to Liverpool Street Station, which will mean they are re-united with their colleagues who have been moving into the new building in stages since January. Most of the remaining staff at the firm's old Holborn headquarters will also be moving this weekend and although I am told there has been no "three line whip," most will be working either tomorrow or Sunday to help transfer their belongings.

Rich pickings

When author Jeffrey Robinson asked 25 London and Wall Street bankers and stockbrokers the best way to get rich he received an amusing array of replies. Nine suggested "Rob a bank", six "Marry money", four "Choose your parents well", and four "Win the pools, Las Vegas or a lottery." Robinson, who publishes his book *Minus Millionaires*, this week, observes that only two answered with anything resembling "Work very hard in a deliberate quest for material success, know everything about what you're doing and at the same time be very lucky while you are doing it."

● One of the lesser known casualties of last year's oil price slump was the Yorkshire textile manufacturer, S Jerome. Its sales of pinstripe cloth to the Middle East took a dive as Arabs cut back on their dishdashas, the traditional robes they wear. Five metres of worsted go into each pukka dishdasha, retailing at £300 plus, and no self-respecting sheikh has less than 40 in his wardrobe – many of them made from Jerome cloth.

British shame

The glamorous world of power boat racing is a far cry from the world of portable loos. But this down to earth area has been earmarked as the next business venture of former world power boat champion Alan Baldwin, chairman of Securiguard, the cleaning to security group. Within the next two weeks, the USM-quoted company will be launching a subsidiary, Service Link Environmental Services, and its portable product – Service Loo. Research by the firm has shown that Britain lags behind the rest of Europe and even some third world countries when it comes to portable loo hygiene. In the US, for example, there are more than 800 contractors offering 300,000 toilet units. Service Link will, in contrast, be competing against only one other comparable British operator.



Calling Tokyo

A trade war looms but the Japanese still love Rio Tinto-Zinc. For the first time, Tokyo analysts turned up en masse at the RTZ year-end results briefing yesterday; to the delight of chairman Sir Alistair Frame. Sir Alistair and other directors have been spreading the RTZ message in Japan for some time now as part of a long term strategy to raise the group's profile in the Far East, which could see RTZ eventually listed on the Tokyo stock market. Japanese investors are already on the RTZ share register. Next – an annual report in Japanese?

Sinking feeling

Pity the poor artist responsible for the boardroom-sized painting of Blue Arrow – the racing yacht that will represent Britain in the 1990 America's Cup. On board HMS President on the Thames yesterday, in front of leading America's Cup contender Peter de Savary and a hoard of Fleet Street hacks, Tony Berry, chairman of the employment agency group Blue Arrow, proudly unveiled the artist's impression of what the eventual yacht will look like, only to be informed by a sailing enthusiast among the journalists that it would – if the technical errors in the drawing were to be believed – sink within minutes. An unamused Mr Berry later refused to be photographed in front of it and when asked whether he or Mr de Savary would be selecting the crew, quipped: "I won't be – I thought that was a good painting." Spurs-fan Berry, who yesterday unveiled a £10 million sponsorship package for de Savary, admitted he had never even set foot on a yacht.

Carol Leonard

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Atlantic in £480m Comcap merger

By Michael Tate

Atlantic Computers has agreed a £480 million merger with Comcap, making it the largest independent IBM computer services group in Europe.

The new group will probably be the largest independent supplier of IBM computer equipment in West Germany, The Netherlands and Denmark, and leader in the British market. It will achieve a turnover of more than £500 million this year.

Under the terms of the merger, every share in Comcap will be swapped for a share in Atlantic. Comcap holders may take 550p in cash for every fourth share. While Herr Ernst Schneider, the retiring Comcap chairman, and some of his boardroom colleagues have opted for this offer, it is unlikely that other shareholders will follow suit given last night's share price of 629p.

At that price the merger values Comcap, which, like Atlantic, supplies, finances and services new and second-user IBM computer equipment, at £136 million.

The merger, which has been recommended by Comcap's board and holders of 49.9 per cent of the share capital, was well received in the City.

Atlantic's growth has been impressive since its flotation in 1983. Profits have climbed from just under £5 million to the £21.61 million unveiled yesterday for 1986, after £14.93 million in 1985.

As a result of the merger, Atlantic has fallen into line with Comcap and its other recent acquisitions on the controversial issue of residual profits on leasing.

Atlantic has traditionally taken the profit it expects to make on buying back a computer at the end of its three-year lease at the beginning of the lease period. Many of Atlantic's institutional supporters have been urging the company not to take these profits until they accrue, at the end of the three-year lease.

Comcap recently reported a 47 per cent increase in profits at £7.6 million, and analysts were yesterday pencilling in £42 million for the combined group in 1987.

Atlantic's earnings for 1986 are up from 26.58p to 35.49p. The dividend has been doubled to 6.51p with a 3.5p final.

£137m to remove the biggest skeleton from Lloyd's locker

Lloyd's finally threw off the lawyers' shackles yesterday and presented its offer to the 3,000 names who underwrote directly or indirectly through the PCW syndicates. In recognition of their contribution, everything in sight is "without prejudice" or "without admission of liability."

In fact there are two offers: one for those who underwrote on the main syndicates and the other for those who underwrote on "the peripheral syndicates" and whose interest in the matter is that their syndicates' reinsurances can be relied on for the future.

The offers confirmed that the best estimate of the syndicates' likely gross liabilities is £680 million, the deficit after taking into account assets presently held and reinsurances effected is £235 million, and the net present value of that deficit is £137 million.

It is therefore proposed that the "up front" money should be found as follows:

- from the names for pure bad underwriting — £34 million;
- from the corporation of Lloyd's — £48 million;
- from various third parties, namely brokers and other professionals — £55 million.

Lloyd's has also agreed to pay the Revenue £2.9 million to tidy up various liabilities arising from the 1984 settlement attempt.

Once the syndicates are funded in this way, there is a conventional reinsurance to close into a new in-house syndicate (9001). That reinsurance to close is the names' real protection because it closes all the outstanding years and transfers all the risks at law to the reinsuring syndicate in accordance with Lloyd's unique but long-established practice in these matters.

It is then the reinsuring syndicate's intention to pass all its assets and liabilities into a newly constituted and authorized insurance company, Lioncover Insurance Company Limited, which will conduct the run-off over many years to come.

The offer has certain fundamental characteristics.

First, assuming success, no matter what further cascade of bones there may be from the cupboards, lockers and woodsheds of Lime Street, the PCW affair will be closed for good. Second, the offer enables a name to crystallize his liability in this connection for ever. The offer tells him his individual share of the deficiency, his personal contribution, and provides information from which his accountant can advise him of the tax recovery applicable, giving him a personal "bottom line."

However painful that call may be and subject to weighting, it amounts in most cases to about 20 per cent of the gross liability. If the offer fails and has to be compared with the effect of refusal, it would be a brave name who met his losses in full and sets about exercising his legal rights in full against all and sundry.

Third, whatever the ultimate liability under the "cap" is, it will fall on the society and thus be a charge on the names, present and future.

In time this could prove an extremely generous gesture to PCW names. In the meantime, names present and future will hope and trust that an adequate reserve for potential claims has been made.

No doubt the Council of Lloyd's will attract the usual obloquy for arranging a market rescue and old-timers will give the theory that a name stands solely liable for his underwriting affairs, regardless of circumstances, another outing. The reality is that no one can go on the sort of binge that Lloyd's did in the 1970s without expecting a severe hangover.

The acid test, however, of any offer is the degree of acceptance it achieves. Acceptance has been set at 90 per cent or such lesser figure as Lloyd's and AUA (3) Ltd agree after the expiry of the acceptance date.

The form of the offer indicates that there have been several distinct sets of negotiations. Lloyd's has successfully conducted bilateral discussions with AUA (3) Ltd, the independent agency set up to run off the affected names' underwriting affairs, as well as each of the other individual contributors to the scheme, and it has had to live with the possibility, in the light of the original costs indemnity, that AUA (3) Ltd might ultimately use it to finance litigation against Lloyd's. Fortunately, AUA (3) Ltd's recommendation of acceptance is included in the formidable bundle of documents names will receive.



Waiting for acceptances: Peter Miller, chairman of Lloyd's

Nevertheless, the offers stand or fall by the number of names who accept by May 30. Some names will hold out against them on the grounds that they do not consider themselves liable in any way at all or that the contributions are so structured as to treat the syndicates on which they wrote unfairly as against other affected syndicates.

Lloyd's difficulty in this connection is a deceptively simple one. No person who is of age and legally competent can actually be compelled by an English court to exercise his personal judgement and discretion against his free will, however mistaken or muddle-headed his objections may be. The hope will therefore be that when two months have elapsed sufficient acceptances will have been received (and thus the purchase of sufficient of the outstanding rights accomplished) that the settlement can go unconditional as regards acceptors.

Names who receive the offers must address a number of serious questions, if not for the first time, certainly for the last.

What will happen if he accepts but the dissentient vote is heavy enough and well organized enough to veto the settlement? How will he pass solvency on June 30 without the support that Lloyd's has given for the past three years or so? Has his share of the misery been properly and correctly calculated and have the conflicting claims between the syndicates been equitably reconciled? And so on.

And what of the others involved? Consider first the alleged miscreants. On the face of it they appear to have made no contribution yet to the settlement announced yesterday.

However, they may find that Lloyd's proves itself to be a resourceful and well-funded plaintiff with a point to prove. Second, Lloyd's itself. It has and is putting itself out substantially in recognition that the PCW names were the innocent victims of a huge fraud: it has procured separate and wholly independent advice for the names at no small cost to the corporation. It has contributed directly to the settlement in several other ways and has ensured that an accepting name is relieved of liability for all time.

Then there are the brokers and other market entities. Their alleged involvement in these matters stems either from a failure to discharge their duties to their assureds (principally the syndicates in question) or for placing business with reinsurers whom they (it is alleged) knew or ought to have known were suspect. For those failures, they have paid dearly.

Finally, there is the generality of names. A name who did not have a line on any PCW syndicate will probably not like what has had to be done on his behalf, although hopefully he will be honest enough to acknowledge that if he had he would welcome the rescue.

But as this, the largest market solution to date, goes public and the theory draws further apart from the practice, it does leave at large precisely what sort of liability a name at Lloyd's contracts.

Mark Farrer

The author was chairman of the Representative Committee of Names for Syndicate 89

Profits at ABP swell to £26m

By Joe Joseph

Associated British Ports Holdings, Britain's biggest port operator, which has grown dramatically since it was privatized four years ago, increased pretax profits to £26 million last year from £17.2 million in 1985.

The advance confirms the company's recovery from 1984, when dock and coal strikes contributed to losses of £7 million.

The shares, floated at 112p in February, 1983, jumped 14p to 484p yesterday

Turnover from port services rose to £150.8 million last year from £138.2 million and earnings per share improved to 22.4p from 16.0p.

Sir Keith Stuart, the chairman of ABP, remarked that the company's market capitalization had swollen to more than £400 million from £45 million when it shed its previous mantle of British Transport Docks Board.

He believes that ABP's continuing investments in port services and the company's growing property activities should all spur future growth.

ABP has become a sizeable player in the property industry since its acquisition of the Grosvenor Square Properties Group at the end of last year and Sir Keith has made it clear that he is keen to exploit the potential of the company's 2,500 acres of developable land.

Property income last year grew to £6.4 million from £5.5 million in 1985 and is likely to furnish an increasing slice of ABP's income. But the company's traditional ports business continues to provide the lion's share. It brought in operating profits, after severance costs, of £20.3 million last year, more than half as much again as in 1985.

WALL STREET

Nervous start for Dow

New York (Agencies) — Renewed weakness in the foreign exchange and bond markets triggered some selling in early trading yesterday. Traders said that scepticism about the ability of the Group of Seven leading industrial countries to stave off a further decline in the dollar made investors nervous.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which rose by 7 points in the first minutes of trading, fell by 5 points to 2,367.16 by mid-morning.

Declining shares outnumbered rising ones by three to two on a volume of 38 million shares.

AMR gained 1¼ to 55½ and UAL ½ to 72½.

	Apr 8	Apr 7
AMR Cp	54¾	53¾
ASA	64	62¾
Aetna Life	63	63
Allied Signal	47	47¾
Allis Chalm	2¾	2¾
Alcoa	44¾	43½
Amax Inc	19¼	19¾
AMR Haas	33¾	34¾
Am Brands	47¾	47¾
Am Can	48¾	49
Am Cymnd	95¾	95
Am Ele Pwr	27¾	27¾
Amex	73½	73¾
Am Home	88	89¾
Am Motors	4¼	4½
Am Stand	47¼	47¾
Am Telph	24¾	23¾
Amoco Cp	82½	83¾
Armco Steel	10¾	9¾
Asarco Inc	23¾	23¾
Ashland Oil	61¼	60¾
Atl Richfld	84¾	86¼
Avon Prod	32¾	31¾
Bk Boston	30¼	30
Bank NY	41¾	42¼
Bankamer	12¾	12
Bkrs Tst NY	46¼	45¾
Beth Steel	12	11¼
Boeing	51¾	50¾
Boise Casc	83	84¾
Borden	59	57¾
Borg Warnr	48¾	48¼
Bristl Myer	103¾	104¾
BP	58¾	59
Brunswick	45¼	44¾
Burl Ind	53¾	47¾
Burl Nth	70¾	70¾
CBS	157	159
CPC Int	54¾	52½
CSX Cp	39¾	38
Cmpbell Sp	70¾	69¾
Can Pacific	19¾	19
Caterpillar	49¾	50¾
Centrl SW	32¼	32
Champion	42	42¾
Chase Man	38¾	38
Chem NY	45	44¾
Chevron	59¼	59½
Chrysler	57¾	57½
Citicorp	51¼	50¾
Clark Eq	23¾	24¼
Coca Cola	46	45¼
Colgate	46	46¾
Columb Gas	48½	47¾
Cmb'tn Eng	33¾	34¼
Cmwlth Ed	35¼	34¾
Cons Edis	43¼	43
Cn Nat Gas	41¾	41¾
Cons Pwr	18¾	18¾
Cont Data	31¼	30¾
Corning Gl	86¾	84¾
Crane	42¾	43¾
Curtiss Wrt	60¼	60¼
Data Genl	32¼	31¾
Deere Co	28¾	28¾
Delta Air	56¾	54¾
Detroit Edi	17¼	17¼
Digital Eq	165½	166¾
Disney	66	66
Dow Chem	83¾	82¾
Dressr Ind	28¾	27¾
Dupont	116	119¼
Duke Pwr	44¾	44¼
East Kodak	78¾	78¾
Exxon Cp	79¾	80¾
Emerson El	107¾	108
Emery Air	13¾	13¼
Exxon	88¼	88¾
Fed Dpt Sts	98¾	99¾
Firestone	37¾	37½
Fst Chicago	28¾	28½
Fst Int Bncp	58¾	59¼
Fst Penn C	10¾	10¾
FT Wachva	43¾	43¾
Ford Motor	89¾	88¾
GAF Cp	50¾	51¾
GTE Cp	40¾	40¾
Gen Cp	118¾	118
Gn Dynam	71¾	71¾
Gen Elect	108¼	108
Gen Inst	29¾	28½
Gen Mills	51½	51¾
Gen Motors	84¾	83¼
Gen Pub Ut	23½	23¾
Genesco	4¾	4¾
Georgia Pac	50¼	50
Gillette	60	60
Goodrich	55¼	55¾
Goodyear	59½	59
Gould Inc	16¾	16¾
Grace Co	65¼	66¾
Grt Atl Pac	35	34¾
Greyhnd	37	37¾
Gruman	29¾	29¾
Gulf & West	77¾	77¾
Heinz	46¾	46¾
Hercules	58	57¾
Hewlett Pk	68	66¾
Honeywell	75	73¼
Irving Bk	33¾	33¾
Jhsn & Jhsn	80¾	80¾
K Mart Cp	64¾	65¼
Kaiser Alum	18½	18¾
Kerr McGee	35¼	36
Kimbl Clark	112¾	112¾
Kraft	59½	59
Kroger	35¾	35¾
LTV Cp	3¾	3¾
Litton	90	88¾
Lockheed	51¾	51¾
Lucky Str	31¾	30¾
Man H'nver	41¾	41¾
Manville	2¾	2¾
Mapco	64¾	64¾
Marine Mid	45¾	46¾
Mc Mamesa	51¾	51¾
Masco	38¾	38¾
Mcdonalds	80¾	80¾
McDonnell	80	79
Mead Cp	69¾	71¾
Merck	162¾	160¾
Minsta Mng	135¾	133¾
Mobil	48¾	49¾
Monsanto	84	83¾
Morgan Jp	42¾	42½
Motorola	57¾	56½
NCR	66¾	67¼
NL Indstrs	7¾	7¼
Nat Distil	63¾	63¾
Nat Md Ent	29	28¾
Nat Semi	14¾	15¼
Norfolk Sth	32¼	32
NW Bancrp	39¾	40¼
Occid Petl	35¼	34¼
Ogden Cp	67¾	67¾
Olin Cp	52¼	52
PPG Ind	46¾	47¾
Pac Gas El	22¼	22
Pan Am	4¼	4¼
Penney JC	102¼	102¾
Pennzoil	87¾	87¼
Pepsico	34	34
Pfizer	73¼	73
Phelps Dod	31¼	31¾
Philip Mor	88¾	87
Philip Petl	16	16½
Polaroid	73¼	74¾
Procl Gble	95	95
Pub Svc Eg	38¼	38¾
Raytheon	79½	79¼
Rynlds Met	63¾	64
Rockwell Int	59¾	59
Royal Dutch	122¾	122¾
SPE Sopac	39	39½
Sara Lee	48¾	47¾
Schlumb	42¼	43¾
Scott Pap	78¾	79
Seagram	76¾	76½
Sears Roeb	55	53¾
Shell Trans	78¾	79¾
Singer	48¾	48¾
Smithkln Bk	108¾	109
Sony Cp	19¾	19¾
Sth Cal Ed	30¾	31
SW Bell	111¾	113¾
Std Oil	71	71½
Stanl Drug	53¾	53¾
Stevens Jp	44¾	44½
Sun Comp	70¾	71¾
TRW Inc	107¼	107
Teledyne	331	331½
Tenneco	47¾	47¾
Texaco	33¾	33¾
Tex Eastn	36	36¾
Tex Inst	196¾	194¾
Tex Util	32½	32¾
Textron	67¾	68¾
Travelers	46¾	47¼
UAL Inc	71¾	65½
USG	42¾	41¾
USX Cp	28¾	29¾
Unilever NV	250	266½
Un Carbide	29¾	29¾
Un Pac Cp	77¾	77¾
Unisys Cp	103¾	104¼
Utd Brands	48¾	47¾
Utd Tech	49¾	51¾
Unocal	37¾	38¾
Walter Jim	57¾	58¼
Warn Lamb	76¼	75¾
Wells Far	48¾	48¾
Westg El	65¾	65¾
Weyerhsr	58	58¾
Whirlpool	38¾	37¾
Woolworth	52¾	52¾
Xerox Cp	76¾	76¼
Zenith	26½	26¾

CANADIAN PRICES

Agnico Eag	37¼	36¾
Alcan Alum	53¾	53¾
Algoma Stl	17	17¾
Can Pacific	18¾	24¾
Cominco	18¾	18¾
Con Bathrst	20¾	21¾
Hawk S Can	25¾	26¾
Hud Bay M	29¼	29¼
Imasco	38¾	38
Imperial Oil	71¾	72¾
Int Pipe	49	48¾
Royl Trstco	36¾	36¾
Seagram	100	100¾
Shelco 'A'	26¾	26¾
Thmsn N 'A'	31½	31¾
Varity Cp	2.85	2.85
WCT	17¾	17¾
Weston	39¾	39

COMPANY NEWS

● **F&C PACIFIC INVESTMENT TRUST:** Year to January 31. Total dividend 2p (1.5p and a special dividend of 1p). The board proposes a one-for-one scrip issue. With figures in £000: Gross revenue 3,734 (3,453). Pretax revenue 1,941 (2,276). Earnings per share 2.25p (2.61p).

● **HAMBRO COUNTRYWIDE:** The company has acquired Vaughan Mitchell and Co in a profit-linked deal. This will increase Hambro's network of residential sales offices to 447. Vaughan has been established for more than 40 years and operates from four offices. The maximum price is £1 million, payable in instalments.

● **CONNELLS ESTATE AGENTS:** Total dividend for 1986 6.4p (4.2p). With figures in £000: Turnover 16,262 (7,968). Pretax profit on ordinary activities 5,253 (2,204).

● **LEC REFRIGERATION:** Total dividend for 1986 unchanged at 12.5p. With figures in £000: Turnover 48,338 (54,175). Pretax profit 1,987 (2,767). The board explains that 1986 was a poor year due partly to the bad weather in the first few months which caused heavy stock levels in retail outlets. But 1987 has so far shown positive progress in sales volumes and demand.

● **T COWIE:** The annual meeting was told that in the first quarter of 1987 profits were at record levels, indicating that the results for 1987 will show a substantial improvement on 1986.

● **REABROOK HOLDINGS:** Total dividend for 1986 raised to 4.25p (2.5p). With figures in £000: Turnover 15,131 (12,529). Pretax profit 1,207 (1,019). Earnings per share 10.05p (7.29p).

● **HELICAL BAR:** Final dividend 2p (nil) for the year to January 31. With figures in £000: Turnover 31,630 (7,323). Operating profit 6,942 (529). During the year, the company completed its transformation from a steel reinforcement company to a merchant property developer.

● **BETEC:** Total dividend for 1986 2.2p (1.8p). With figures in £000: Turnover 16,659 (14,765). Pretax profit 1,472 (1,214).

● **A BECKMAN:** Interim dividend 1.95p (same) for the six months to December 31. With figures in £000: Turnover: 7,238 (7,360). Pretax profit 823 (802). Earnings per share 5.3p (5.0p).

● **DOWDING & MILLS:** Half-year to December 31. Interim dividend 0.64p (0.58p). With figures in £000: Sales 22,294 (14,549). Pretax profit 2,612 (2,008). Earnings per share 2.06p (1.96p).

● **DE LA RUE:** Terms have been agreed for an offer for Fortronic Technology Holdings. Irrevocable undertakings to accept have been given for 3.71 million ordinary shares (38.4 per cent). The offer, of up to 70p a share, values Fortronic at about £6.8 million, including a small deferred element, which is dependent on the audited results of Fortronic for 1986-87. Fortronic makes electronic banking and payment systems.

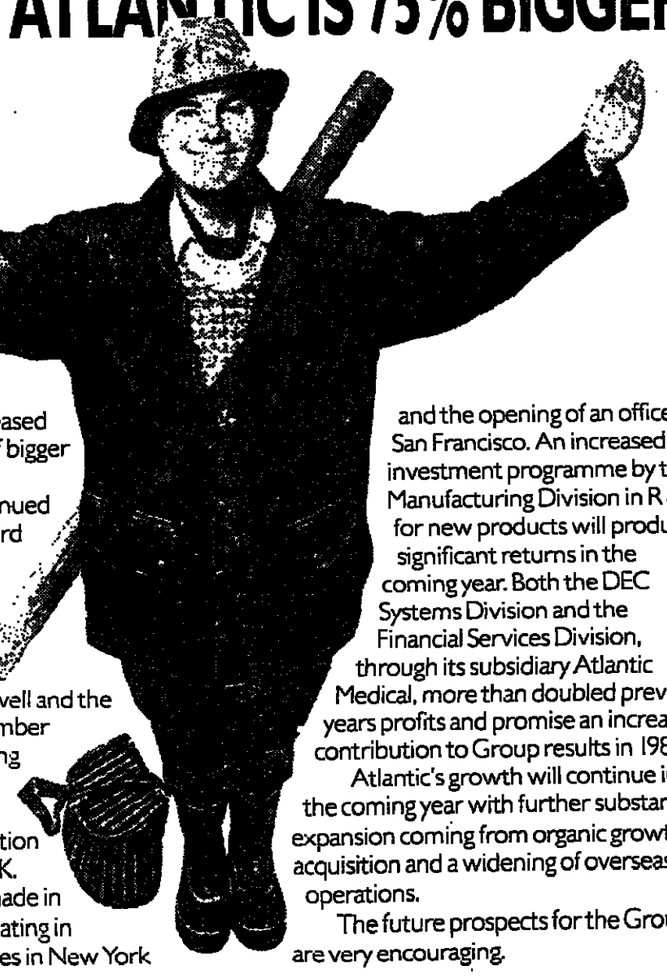
● **HICKSON INTERNATIONAL:** The company is to buy Flooring Distributors and its subsidiary, Stair Tread Supply. The price will be a maximum of £6.5 million.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	10.00%
Adam & Company	10.00%
BCCI	10.00%
Citibank Savings†	12.45%
Consolidated Crds	10.00%
Co-operative Bank	10.00%
C. Hoare & Co	10.00%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	10.00%
Lloyds Bank	10.00%
Nat Westminster	10.00%
Royal Bank of Scotland	10.00%
TSB	10.00%
Citibank NA	10.00%

† Mortgage Base Rate.

NOW THE ATLANTIC IS 75% BIGGER



Once again Atlantic are pleased to announce the landing of bigger and better results.

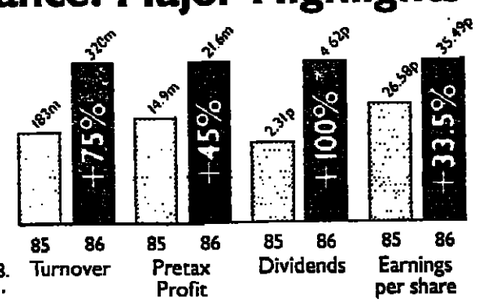
In 1986 the Group continued its impressive growth record with turnover increasing by 75% to £320 million and pre-tax profit up by 45% to £21.6 million. All divisions performed exceptionally well and the acquisition of ICA in December made the Group the leading independent supplier of IBM equipment in continental Europe, a position it already enjoyed in the UK. Great progress was also made in the US IBM market culminating in the move to larger premises in New York and the opening of an office in San Francisco. An increased investment programme by the Manufacturing Division in R & D for new products will produce significant returns in the coming year. Both the DEC Systems Division and the Financial Services Division, through its subsidiary Atlantic Medical, more than doubled previous years profits and promise an increased contribution to Group results in 1987.

Atlantic's growth will continue in the coming year with further substantial expansion coming from organic growth, acquisition and a widening of overseas operations.

The future prospects for the Group are very encouraging.

Atlantic's 1986 Performance: Major Highlights

- Turnover increased by 75% to £320m.
- Profits up by 45 % to £21.6m.
- Dividend increased by 100% to 4.62p per share.
- Earnings per share up 33.5% to 35.49p.
- Improved quality of earnings without residual profits.
- Further acquisitions speed growth in Europe.
- Increased R & D investment - new products for 1987 and 1988.



For more details of Atlantic's success or wide range of services, send to our Corporate Affairs Department for our Annual Report and or new Corporate Brochure.

PLEASE TICK BOX REQUIRED
Corporate Brochure ☐
Annual Report ☐

Name
Address
Tel

ATLANTIC COMPUTERS plc
The Technology Services Group

Atlantic Computers plc, Winchmore House, Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1BR. Tel: 01-583 9481

HICKSON

1986 AUDITED RESULTS

TURNOVER £161.5m
Up 9%
£m
161.5
148.0
1985 1986

PROFIT BEFORE TAX £15.1m
Up 15%
£m
15.1
13.1
1985 1986

DIVIDEND PER SHARE 17.5 p
Up 17%
pence
17.5
15
1985 1986

EARNINGS PER SHARE 48p
Up 23%
pence
48
39
1985 1986

STRATEGY IN ACTION

Hickson International PLC

For more information or a copy of the Annual Report, please write to the Secretary
Hickson International PLC, Castleford, West Yorkshire WF10 2JT

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Feedex Agric Ind	Industrials E-K	
2	Hill Samuel	Banks,Discount	
3	Laporte	Chemicals,Plas	
4	Readbrook Hldgs	Chemicals,Plas	
5	Schroders	Banks,Discount	
6	Underwoods	Drapery,Stores	
7	AB Foods (aa)	Foods	
8	STC (aa)	Electricals	
9	Bradford	Property	
10	Liberty	Drapery,Stores	
11	Metal Box	Industrials L-R	
12	Baker Perkins	Industrials A-D	
13	Alphameric	Electricals	
14	Brown (Matthew)	Breweries	
15	Relyon	Industrials L-R	
16	Finlan Gp	Building,Roads	
17	Menzies (John)	Drapery,Stores	
18	Brown & Tawse	Industrials A-D	
19	Hickson	Chemicals,Plas	
20	APV	Industrials A-D	
21	Arlen	Electricals	
22	NMC Inv	Industrials L-R	
23	Greene King	Breweries	
24	Cable Wireless (aa)	Electricals	
25	Christies Int	Industrials A-D	
26	TVS N/V	Cinemas,TV	
27	Jones Stroud	Electricals	
28	Marler	Property	
29	Freemans	Drapery,Stores	
30	Reckitt Colman (aa)	Industrials L-R	
31	More O'Ferrall	Paper,Print,Adv	
32	Spring Ram	Industrials S-Z	
33	Unitech	Electricals	
34	Smith (WH) 'A'	Drapery,Stores	
35	Connells	Property	
36	Dixons Grp (aa)	Drapery,Stores	
37	Stand Chart (aa)	Banks,Discount	
38	Empire Stores	Drapery,Stores	
39	Fenner (JH)	Industrials E-K	
40	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	
41	Coats Viyella (aa)	Drapery,Stores	
42	Shandwick	Paper,Print,Adv	
43	Siothert & Pitt	Industrials S-Z	
44	Int Thomson	Newspapers	
© Times Newspapers Ltd.		Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

1986 High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int. only yld%	Gross Red. yld%

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

100¾	99½	Treas	10¾	1987	100	..	10.9	9.940
99¾	97	Treas	3%	1987	98¾	..	3.0	7.585
102¼	85½	Treas	12¾	1987	101¼	..	11.8	9.257
99½	97¼	Treas	7¼%	1985-88	98¾	..	7.3	9.033
101¼	96	Exch	10½%	1988	101¼	..	10.4	9.227
101¼	93¼	Treas	C8¼%	1988	100¾	..	8.7	9.204
95¾	92¾	Treas	3%	1978-88	95¾	..	3.1	6.866
101¾	96	Treas	9¼%	1988	100¾	..	9.5	9.172
103¾	95½	Treas	11¾%	1988	103¾	..	11.1	9.152
102¾	97¼	Exch	10¼%	1989	101¾	..	10.0	9.199
102	97¼	Exch	10%	1989	101¾	..	9.8	9.216
104¼	99¼	Treas	9%	1989-92	103¾	..	8.6	9.198
101¼	95¾	Treas	C9¼%	1989	100¾	..	9.4	9.197
93	89¾	Treas	3%	1989	92¾	..	3.2	6.907
110¾	105¼	Treas	13¾	1990	109¾	..	11.9	9.094
105¾	95	Exch	11¾	1990	105¾	..	10.5	9.174
105¾	95	Exch	12¼%	1990	105¾	..	11.5	9.074
95¾	84¾	Treas	3%	1990	94¾	..	3.4	6.561
99¾	93¼	Treas	9%	1990-92	98¾	..	8.4	6.837
101	97¼	Treas	10%	1990	100¾	..	9.9	9.175
97¾	86¾	Exch	9%	1990	96¾	..	8.9	9.273
109¾	98¾	Treas	C10%	1991	108¾	..	9.4	9.349
119¾	102¾	Treas	13¾%	1991	108¾	..	10.6	9.119
93¾	86¾	Exch	9¼%	1991-93	92¾	..	8.2	7.265
109¾	98¾	Treas	10¾%	1991	107¾	..	10.3	9.088
85¾	79¾	Treas	3%	1991	85¾	..	3.5	6.324

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

115¾	107¾	Treas	12¾%	1992	114¾	..	11.2	9.052
105¾	92¼	Treas	10%	1992	103¾	..	9.6	9.654
107¾	99¼	Treas	C10¼%	1992	106¾	..	9.9	9.036
115	100¾	Exch	12¼%	1992	113¾	..	10.8	9.217
103	100¾	Exch	10¼%	1992	102¾	..	11.4	9.253
106¾	99¾	Treas	10%	1993	104¾	..	9.6	9.132
117¾	108	Treas	12¾%	1993	115¾	..	10.8	9.204
92	81¼	Fund	6%	1993	91¾	..	6.5	7.700
124	114	Treas	13¾%	1994	121¾	..	10.7	9.238
129¾	113¾	Treas	14¼%	1994	126¾	..	11.4	9.234
119¾	103¾	Exch	12¼%	1994	116¾	..	10.7	9.217
125¾	113¾	Exch	13¼%	1994	121¾	..	11.1	9.247
102	91¼	Treas	9%	1994	101¾	..	8.8	9.197
117¾	105¾	Treas	12¾%	1995	114¾	..	10.4	9.262
81¼	75¼	Gas	3%	1990-95	80¾	..	3.7	6.977
108¾	97¾	Exch	10¼%	1995	107¾	..	9.7	9.251
122¾	111¾	Treas	12¾%	1995	119¾	..	10.6	9.362
130	117¾	Treas	14%	1996	127¾	..	11.0	9.362
101¾	89¾	Treas	9%	1992-96	98¾	..	9.1	9.164
138¾	125¾	Treas	15¼%	1996	135¾	..	11.2	9.158
128¾	114¾	Exch	12¼%	1996	124¾	..	10.7	9.288
96	80	Nat'l	3%	1994-96	95¾	..	3.5	6.281
107	95¾	Conv	10%	1996	104¾	..	9.6	9.281
127¾	115¾	Treas	13¼%	1997	124¾	..	10.6	9.316
109¾	95	Exch	10¼%	1997	107¾	..	9.6	9.116
99¾	86¾	Treas	9%	1997	97¾	..	9.0	9.208
139	125¾	Exch	13%	1997	136¾	..	11.0	9.508
87¾	77¾	Treas	8¾%	1998-98	86¾	..	7.9	9.222
145	130¾	Treas	15¼%	1998	141¾	..	11.0	9.388
121¾	108¾	Exch	12¼%	1998	118¾	..	10.1	9.388
122¾	108¾	Exch	12¼%	1998	118¾	..	10.1	9.388
111¾	99¾	Treas	10¼%	1998	108¾	..	9.3	9.371
110¾	97¾	Conv	10¼%	1998	107¾	..	9.3	9.369
130¾	115¾	Treas	13%	2000	127¾	..	10.2	9.391
102¾	88¾	Exch	10¼%	2000	100¾	..	9.2	9.178
105¾	94¾	Treas	10¾%	2001	104¾	..	9.4	9.176
107¾	92	Conv	9¾%	2001	104¾	..	9.2	9.176
134	120¾	Treas	14%	1998-01	130¾	..	10.7	9.460

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

110¾	97¾	Conv	10%	2002	108¾	..	9.4	9.188
121¾	106¾	Exch	12%	1999-02	117¾	..	10.4	9.199
110¾	94¾	Treas	10%	2003	107¾	..	9.3	9.171
124¾	107¾	Treas	12¾%	2000-03	120¾	..	10.6	9.203
121	105	Treas	11¾%	2001-04	117¾	..	10.1	9.230
110¾	97¾	Treas	10%	2004	107¾	..	9.3	9.180
58¾	51¾	Fund	3½%	1999-04	58¾	..	6.0	6.112
109¾	95¾	Conv	10%	2005	107¾	..	9.3	9.140
119¾	103¾	Treas	11¾%	2003-07	116¾	..	10.1	9.180
130¾	112¾	Treas	12¾%	2005-08	127¾	..	10.0	9.191
140¾	121¾	Treas	13¾%	2004-08	137¾	..	10.0	9.191
109¾	95¾	Treas	10%	2006	107¾	..	9.3	9.174
133¾	117¾	Exch	12¾	2013-17	130¾	..	9.8	9.174

UNDATED

46	39¾	Consols	4%					
40¾	34½	War Ln	3½%					
51¾	46¼	Conv	5%					
28¾	23¾	Treas	3%					
29¾	24¾	Consols	2½%					
28¾	24¾	Treas	2½%					

INDEX-LINKED

129¾	124¾	Treas	2%	1988	129¾	..	2.0	1.553
114¾	109¾	Treas	2%	1988	114¾	..	2.0	1.553
126¾	117¾	Treas	2½%	1988	126¾	..	2.0	1.553
129¾	120¾	Treas	2½%	2006	129¾	..	2.0	1.553
131¾	109¾	Treas	2½%	2006	131¾	..	2.0	1.553
132¾	107¾	Treas	2½%	2006	132¾	..	2.0	1.553
132¾	107¾	Treas	2½%	2006	132¾	..	2.0	1.553
131¾	107¾	Treas	2½%	2006	131

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
80, Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL
0345 717373 (Lundine)

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
Gilt & Fixed	113.0	119.5e	+0.1	10.04
High Inc Equity	117.5	124.9e	+2.8	4.18
Worldwide Bond	105.3	207.7	+0.4	4.67
American Growth	172.4	183.4	-0.5	1.56
Asian Pacific	68.6	72.9	+0.9	3.05
Assets & Earns	142.6	151.7	+1.5	1.50
Capital Reserve	70.7	71.2e		1.42
Comm & Energy	182.0	191.8e	+2.8	0.43
European Capital	98.0	102.1e	-0.2	1.24
General	162.4	172.7	+1.5	2.61
Japan	97.7	93.2	+0.3	
UK Growth Inc	144.0	153.1e	+1.1	1.16
Do Accum	209.1	222.4e	+1.7	0.78
US Emerging Co's	59.4	63.1	-0.3	1.73
Equitas Progress	261.0	277.5	+1.6	2.44
MastertrustAcc	78.5	84.5	+0.9	2.08
American Inc	53.3	56.5	-0.1	4.64

AETNA UNIT TRUSTS LTD
401, St. John Street London EC1V 4QE
01-837 6464

Australian	83.8	89.8	+1.4	
Europe Growth Acc	119.5	127.6e	-0.1	1.21
Exempt	377.0	399.4e	+4.9	4.19
Far Eastern	218.5	234.0e	+2.6	0.10
Fin & Prop	60.1	64.2	+1.1	2.05
High Yield	70.6	74.8e	+1.0	4.73
Income & Gth	205.3	218.1e	+1.0	3.80
Int Earnings	193.9	205.4e	+1.5	2.25
Ind Growth Inc	98.2	104.6e	+0.1	0.86
Japan Growth Acc	965.9	1026.4e	+3.6	3.60
Nat Resources Inc	289.2	306.5e	+4.9	
Nth Amer Gth Inc	176.8	189.5	-0.6	0.62
Preference Inc	118.6	125.8e		2.91
Small Co's Div Inc	81.8	86.7	+0.4	4.62
Small Co's Gth	284.2	301.1	+2.5	1.55
Special Sits Inc	181.2	170.8	+2.0	1.29
UK Growth	398.2	421.8e	+4.8	2.51

ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
0793 610366 & 0793 28291

UK Special Sits	379.2	395.9e	+2.1	2.70
Growth & Income	157.1	166.5e	+1.1	3.08
Capital Trust	264.7	280.6e	+2.0	2.64
Balanced	438.3	461.4	+3.0	2.89
Accum Trust	454.5	479.5	+5.2	2.73
American Income	32.4	34.5	+0.1	4.32
High Income Tst	360.9	318.5e	+1.6	4.07
Equity Income	172.2	182.4e	+0.9	4.10
High Yield	174.4	184.9	+0.8	4.71
Govt Secs Trust	29.4	30.5e		7.97
International	105.6	110.2	+0.4	0.95
Japan Fund	192.1	143.2	+0.8	0.01
Pacific Trust	219.6	233.9	+2.5	0.05
Amer Spcl Sits	71.0	75.6e	-0.1	1.26
Secs Of Amer Tst	229.0	243.9	-2.2	0.47
Ald Assets Value	285.9	303.0	+2.2	2.87
Dome Gilt Trust	41.7	44.1e	-0.1	5.35
Smaller Co's	175.4	185.9	+0.8	2.35
2nd Smaller Co's	220.1	233.3e	+1.1	1.71
Recovery Trust	110.6	117.3e	+0.8	2.34

ARBUTHNOT SECURITIES
See Royal Trust Fund Management Ltd
BAILLIE GIFFORD
3, Glenfinlas St, Edinburgh EH3 6YY
031-225 2561 (Dealers-031-226 6986)

Ind Ex (22)	473.9	494.7		0.66
Japan Ex (43)	457.2	477.1	+15.5	0.10
UK Ex (31)	365.2	345.8		1.10
Pfsd Pens Inst	570.6	600.6		
Pfsd Pens UK	223.1	234.9		1.42
BG America	172.1	183.1	-0.9	0.00
BG Energy	197.3	209.9	-2.2	1.56
BG Income Growth	292.8	288.0e	+2.5	4.13
BG Japan	212.5	225.1	+0.3	0.00
BG Technology	191.3	203.8	+0.5	0.00

BALTIC TRUST MANAGERS
20, Creswell Street, London EC1
01-374 5801

American	52.8	56.2	-0.6	1.76
Australian	27.7	29.5	+0.4	1.33
Japan & General	136.0	144.7	-0.9	0.03
High Income	83.5	87.1	+0.3	5.99
International Trust	95.7	102.9	+0.2	0.78
Income Gth Tst	61.2	65.1	+0.1	3.07
Gilts & Fixed Int	21.9	23.3e	+0.1	8.42
Global Markets	39.2	41.8	+0.1	4.34
Special Situations	61.6	64.9	+0.2	1.55

BARCLAYS UNICORN
Unicorn House, 252, Romford Rd E7
01-534 5544

America	95.8	101.3	-0.2	0.89
Asset Accum	229.2	255.5	+0.4	0.31
Do Income	178.0	189.3	+3.1	4.31
Capital	84.1	88.9	+0.6	2.63
Exempt Trust	535.2	566.3	+3.3	3.46
Extra Income	26.2	27.7e	+0.2	4.67
Financial	271.9	287.7	+2.0	2.89
500	335.1	355.8e	+2.0	2.47
General	169.4	179.2e	+1.2	2.72
Gilt & Fixed Inc	55.1	58.0e		9.45
Japan & Gen Inc	210.7	222.9e	+1.2	0.00
Do Acc	213.1	225.5e	+1.2	0.00
Growth Accum	211.0	223.2e	+1.0	2.12
Income Trust	413.1	437.1	+2.2	3.35

BARING FUND MANAGERS
PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XD
01-658 9002

Australia	101.1	108.1	+1.1	0.90
Eastern	83.3	89.0e	+1.0	0.00
Essex Income	70.1	74.5	-0.7	4.50
Europe	138.6	147.4	-0.6	1.00
Exempt Trust	23.4	25.1e		
Growth & Inc	73.2	78.5e	+1.0	2.50
Global Gth	68.5	72.8	+0.1	2.20
Japan Special	113.0	120.8		0.10
Japan Sunrise	99.6	106.5e	+1.4	0.00
First Europe	120.2	127.8	-0.2	0.80
First Japan	92.2	98.7	+0.9	0.60
First N Amer	52.4	55.7		1.10
First Smaller Co's	91.9	96.9e	+0.6	2.70

BARRINGTON MANAGEMENT
10, Fenchurch St, London EC3
01-623 8000

Amer Smlr Co Inc	69.4	70.1	-0.2	0.00
Do Accum	68.2	71.9	-0.3	0.00
European Inc	101.2	106.6	-0.3	1.75
Do Accum	125.0	131.9	-0.3	1.75
Fund of Inv Tr Inc	26.3	27.7e	-0.1	1.86
Do Accum	32.9	35.8		1.86
General Inc	200.5	211.5	-1.0	1.68
Do Accum	277.1	292.3	-1.4	1.68
Gilt Yield Inc	113.3	119.7	+0.2	10.50
Global Inc	157.5	169.2		4.25
Do Accum	269.8	284.6		4.25
Do Accum	186.2	204.2		0.10
High Yield Inc	113.0	119.2	-0.1	4.29
Do Accum	231.5	244.3	-0.2	4.29
Int Rec Inc	125.0	131.8	-0.6	1.88
Do Accum	139.1	159.4	-0.8	1.88
Japan Inc	247.8	261.4	+2.8	0.55
Do Accum	249.6	263.3	+2.8	0.55
Japanese Spec Inc	112.7	118.9e	+1.5	0.31
Do Accum	113.4	119.6e	+1.5	0.31
N American Inc	56.6	59.7	-0.1	0.62
Do Accum	85.8	89.4	-0.1	0.62
Pacific Inc	154.1	162.6e	+1.4	0.35
Do Accum	174.3	183.9	+1.5	0.35
Planned Investment	157.7	166.8	+1.8	3.47
Smaller Co's Inc	112.9	119.1	-0.8	0.76
Do Accum	134.5	141.9	-0.7	0.76
Smaller Inc A				
UK Equity Gth Inc	34.7	36.6	-0.2	0.25
Do Accum	57.5	60.7	-0.3	0.25
Worldwide Tech Inc	50.8	53.6e	-0.7	0.00
Do Accum	51.3	54.1	-0.4	0.25

BROWN SHIPLEY
8-17 Pennymount Rd, Haywards Heath
0444 458144

Financial	166.1	176.7e	+0.7	2.11
Smaller Co's Acc	332.3	351.7e	+4.3	
Do Income	210.9	223.2e	+2.6	0.76
High Income	93.3	98.6e	+0.2	4.96
Income	97.3	102.4e	+0.2	4.66
Man Portfolio Inc	85.5	94.5	+0.8	2.20
Do Acc	150.4	160.0	+1.4	

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
North American	63.7	67.8	-0.9	1.32
Orient	92.9	98.8	+1.1	0.30
Exempt	261.2	306.8	+2.4	2.04
Recovery	62.7	71.7	-2.0	1.17
Germian	31.0	33.0		0.49
Technology	148.2	157.7c	+7.7	0.29
Europe	23.3	25.0e		0.75

BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT
The Stock Exchange London EC2P 2JT
01-588 2868

Fallowship Inc	62.3	66.2e		2.00
General Inc (4)	290.6	305.5	+2.0	1.66
Do Accum (4)	466.0	482.0	+3.2	1.66
Income Fund (2)	127.7	134.0c		4.00
Do Accum (2)	220.5	230.3c		4.00
Smaller Inc (5)	94.0	98.9e		1.32
Do Accum	90.2	95.5e		1.32

CS FUND MANAGERS
(63), High Holborn, London WC1V 6PY
01-242 1146

CS Japan Fund	101.6	108.1	+1.4	0.46

CANNON FUND MANAGERS
1, Olympic Way, Wembley, HA9 0NB
01-902 8876

Growth	346.0	366.1	-0.5	2.86
Income	402.3	426.9	-1.5	3.78
Far East	254.6	269.5e	+2.0	0.33
North American	168.1	177.9e	+0.9	0.51
Global	54.4	57.6e	+0.3	0.60
European	61.5	65.0	+0.1	0.89
Japan				0.60

CAPEL (JAMES) MANAGEMENT
PO Box 551 Bank Marks London EC3 7JO
01-621 0011

Capital	430.1	457.9e	+2.0	1.62
Income	343.1	365.1e	+1.1	4.34
North American	324.5	345.3e	+0.3	0.73

CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ
01-588 1815

Inv Fund	464.3	•		5.92
Fixed Int	147.75			9.68
Deposit	100.0			10.55

CHASE MANHATTAN FUND MANAGERS
72/73 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DP
01-606 6622

S & C Special Sits	67.6	71.5		0.60

CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ
01-588 1815

Income	443.45			4.40
Accum	213.2437			
Deposit	100.0			9.65

CLERICAL MEDICAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
Narcher Place, Bristol BS2 0JH
0800 373380

Amer Growth	26.4	28.0e		1.90
Dragon Growth	24.1	25.6		0.00
Equity High Income	54.8	58.0e		3.00
European Growth	30.9	32.7		2.00
General Equity	49.8	52.8		2.00
Gilt & Fixed Int Gth	31.8	33.3		3.10
Gilt & Fixed Inc	25.7	26.6e		9.30
Japan Growth	39.1	41.4		0.00
Pedigree Gth	30.2	32.0		2.50

COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS
St Helen's, 1, Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ
01-283 7500 Dealing 01-686 9818

UK & Gen Inc	57.5	61.2	+0.6	2.69
Do Accum	57.5	61.2	+0.6	2.69
Income Inc	57.5	61.2	+0.5	3.92
Do Accum	57.5	61.2	+0.5	3.92
Worldwide Inc	54.9	58.5	+0.3	1.58
Do Accum	54.9	58.5	+0.3	1.58

COUNTY UT MANAGERS LTD
161, Cheapside, London EC2V 6EU
01-726 1089

E uro G rth S trat	75.2	79.6		0.67
Extra Income	272.3	224.7e	+1.8	5.91
Financial	213.7	229.2	+2.6	2.12
Sth East Asia Gth	79.1	83.6e	+1.0	1.91
Growth Investment	352.4	372.9	+3.6	2.05
Income & Growth	51.2	54.1	+0.3	4.43
Japanese Growth	249.6	264.1	+3.1	0.47
Nth Amer Growth	120.2	127.1	+2.3	0.67
Intl Recovery	143.1	151.4		1.28
Smaller Co's	299.5	314.2	+3.2	1.19
Global Inc Tst	64.7	68.5e		6.39
Special Sits Acc	370.9	392.3	+8.0	1.16

CROWN UNIT TRUST SERVICES LTD
Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW
04862 5033

American Trust	143.0	152.1	-0.6	0.66
European Trust	125.8	134.5e		
Growth Trust	275.4	293.0	+2.0	2.46
High Income Trust	201.8	321.1e	+1.8	4.64
Ind Tech Trust	129.4	137.7	+0.7	
Japanese Trust	184.1	195.9e	+1.0	

CRUSADER UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD
Reigate, Surrey RH2 8BL
07372 42434

UK Income	58.7	62.5e	+0.4	4.72
UK Growth Accum	68.5	72.9e	+0.5	2.41
Do Dist	67.4	71.8e	+0.5	2.41
European Growth	64.2	68.3		1.86
Pacific Growth	66.8	71.1		0.51

EFM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
4, Melville Crescent, Edinburgh
031-226 3492

American Fund	74.4	79.2	-0.3	1.26
Capital Fund	136.9	143.7	+0.4	1.18
Eurofund	97.3	103.4	+0.1	1.72
Growth & Inc Fund	165.7	176.4	+0.9	3.54
High Dist Fund	146.7	156.2	-0.2	4.32
International Fund	231.1	246.7	+0.6	0.91
Pacific Fund	24.2	25.7	+0.1	0.27
Resources Fund	33.9	36.0e	+0.5	0.25
Smlr Jap Co's Fnd	31.4	33.4	-0.2	
Tokyo Fund	210.4	224.0	+0.4	0.00
(Ex) Amer (9)	153.1	157.3e		
(Ex) Japan (3)	122.8	126.1		0.16
(Ex) Pacific (4)	353.0	373.0e	+10.9	0.25
(Ex) Smaller Jap (4)	187.3	192.4	+1.8	0.10

EAGLE STAR UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ
0242 521311

UK Balanced Inc	88.3	93.7	+0.9	2.53
Do Accum	90.8	96.1	+1.0	2.47
UK Growth Accum	119.2	126.5	+1.2	1.62
UK High Inc Inc	91.4	97.0	-0.2	3.88
N American Accum	77.3	82.1	-0.4	0.85
Far Eastern Accum	125.9	134.9	+1.4	0.76
European Accum	90.5	96.5	-0.2	1.19
UK Gilt & Fi Inc	57.2	60.7	+0.1	9.89
Do Accum	60.9	64.6	+0.1	7.58

ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
Admin Centre, Hexagon House, 28, Western Road, Romford RM1 3LS
0708-68868

Endurance	129.3	137.6		0.96

EQUITABLE UNITS ADMINISTRATION
Walton Street Aylesbury Bucks Bucks HP21 7QW
0296 431480

Equitable Pelican	92.6	98.6e	+0.6	2.78
High Income Trust	92.1	98.0	+0.6	4.55
Gilt & Fixed Int	54.2	57.7		7.50
Tst Of Inv Trusts	64.4	69.8	+0.1	1.73
Special Sits Trust	95.8	103.0	+0.5	2.15
Nth Amer Trust	65.8	70.1	-0.1	1.51
Far Eastern Trust	109.6	116.7	+0.7	0.38
Intl Growth	59.8	63.7e	+1.3	0.97

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
EQUITY & LAW				
St George Hse Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1GD				
0203 553231				
UK Growth Accum	178.7	191.1e		2.73
Do Income	152.2	161.9e		2.72
Higher Inc Accum	212.3	232.2e		5.43
Do Income	203.1	208.6e		5.43
Gilts/Fixed Accum	109.8	112.5e		8.12
Do Income	85.5	90.3e		8.12
Nth Amer Tst Accum	153.6	163.4e		0.00
Far East Tst Accum	185.4	197.7e		0.00
Euro Tst Accum	167.8	178.5		0.85
General Trust	279.3	297.1e		2.85
F & C UNIT MANAGEMENT				
1, Laurence Pountney Hill, London EC4R 0BA				
01-623 4680				
US Smaller Co's	75.2	80.0	-0.8	0.18
Capital Fund	184.5	192.5e	-1.1	0.16
UK Income Fund	87.8	93.6e	-0.1	4.82
Far Eastern Fund	79.8	84.7	+1.1	0.00
Overseas Income	75.7	80.5	-0.2	3.45
Fixed Interest	70.8	75.2	+0.1	8.62
Recovery Fund	70.5	75.0	+1.3	2.30
European Income	84.2	89.6	-0.5	2.79
Financials Fund	54.7	58.2	+0.7	2.57
FS INVESTMENT MANAGERS				
190, West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA				
041-332 3132				
Asset Gth Inc				
Do Acc				
Balanced Gth Inc	69.2	67.2e	+0.4	1.40
Do Accum	64.8	68.1e		
Income Gth Inc	62.6	66.0	+0.2	5.30
Do Accum	58.5	60.1	+0.5	
Service Co's Inc	71.4	76.0	+0.5	1.00
Do Accum	72.6	77.2	+0.5	
Higher Inc	29.0	30.6	+0.1	7.00
Do acc	29.3	31.2	+0.2	
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD				
Rose Wark, Tonbridge, TN9 1DY				
0732 361144				
Americap	120.1	127.8	+0.2	0.55
Asset Equity Income	34.9	37.2	+0.1	3.76
Asset Special Sits	57.9	61.6	+0.2	0.01
Australia	43.3	45.9	+0.5	1.17
European	29.4	33.4	+0.3	
European Inc	28.7	25.1	+0.3	3.96
Global Conv	24.8	26.4		6.00
Far East Inc	39.5	41.8	+0.2	3.93
Gilt & Fixed Inc	30.9	•	-0.1	9.05
Growth & Income	118.2	125.8	-0.4	3.58
Japan Special Sits	51.9	55.4e		
Japan	158.0	168.6	+0.9	
Managed Inc	166.6	166.6e	+0.9	0.08
Max Income Equity	107.0	113.9e	+0.3	3.97
Professional Gth	41.3	44.2	-0.1	1.82
South East Asia	48.2	52.4	+0.6	0.11
Special Sits	230.7	245.5	-0.4	0.33
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT				
3, London Wall Bldgs, London Wall, London EC2M 5NQ				
01-628 5181				
Asset & Gen Inc	223.7	235.7	-0.6	
Do Accum	228.6	241.9	-0.6	
Asset Turnaround Inc	222.0	235.9	-0.1	1.14
Do Accum	223.9	238.0	-0.1	1.14
Capital Tst Inc	259.7	284.3e	+1.9	1.76
Do Accum	329.5	347.6e	+2.1	1.76
Conv Gth Inc	160.9	169.7	+0.4	4.62
Do Accum	141.1	148.3	+0.4	4.62
European Inc	68.5	72.4	+0.1	0.83
Do Accum	68.5	72.4	+0.1	0.83
Extra Inc Tst Inc	214.5	226.1	+1.2	5.00
Do Accum	235.4	248.0	+1.2	3.82
Financial Accum	54.3	57.5	+0.6	1.03
Do Inc	54.3	57.5	+0.6	1.03
Income Trust	163.0	171.9	+0.4	5.28
Do Accum	163.8	173.3	+0.9	3.30
Int Growth Fd Inc	175.5	185.7	-0.1	
Do Accum	184.6	205.2c	-0.1	
Japan & Gen Inc	109.0	115.2	-0.4	
Do Accum	110.1	116.5	-0.4	
Monthly Income Fd	112.1	118.6e	+0.6	9.62
PEP 87	53.9	57.0	+0.3	2.66
Recovery	119.2	126.1	+0.7	2.11
Do Accum	208.2	218.1	+1.6	0.97
FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS				
Pixham End, Dorking, Surrey				
0306 885055				
FP Equity Dist	240.2	254.9	+2.2	2.31
FP Accum	404.6	429.4	+3.6	2.31
FP Fixed Int Dist	119.7	127.5	+0.3	9.43
FP Accum	141.3	150.3	+0.4	5.83
Stewardship Dist	217.2	230.5	+1.8	1.36
FP Accum	256.0	239.9	+1.3	1.36
FP North American	140.2	148.7	+0.7	0.11
FP Pacific Basin	203.5	215.7	+2.1	0.24
GT UNIT MANAGERS				
9th Floor, 8, Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YJ				
01-388 2576 Dealing 01-623 9431				
Amer Special Sits	78.0	84.1e	+0.2	0.50
UK Cap Fnd Inc	127.1	135.3e	+1.2	2.20
Do Accum	184.2	196.0e	+1.8	2.20
Income Fund	97.4	103.7e	+0.4	5.60
Pension Exempt	206.4	219.8e	+1.9	2.20
International	189.3	201.4e	+0.8	0.30
US & General	60.2	64.1		0.70
Japan & General	253.0	301.1e	+2.9	0.10
Far East & Gen	156.0	166.2	+1.5	0.10
European Fund	270.1	287.4e	-0.4	0.10
Germany Fund	68.5	70.8	-0.1	1.00
Intl Inc Fund	88.5	59.1		4.20
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS				
2, St Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BP				
01-623 1212 Dealing 01-623 5768 Dealing 01-623 5806				
American Trust	90.8	96.7	-1.0	0.70
Australian Trust	39.6	39.0e	+0.2	0.10
British Tst Accum	69.0	70.9		1.71
Do Dist	69.0	70.9		1.58
Commodity Share	93.0	99.0	+0.7	1.00
European Trust	55.8	59.4e	-0.1	0.60
Extra Income Trust	39.8	42.3		4.62
Far Eastern Trust	150.0	159.6	+0.8	0.21
Fixed Interest Fund	27.3	29.1e	+0.1	9.01
Frontier Mktg	24.6	26.2	+0.3	0.38
Intl Fixed Int Tst	24.6	26.2e	-0.2	9.04
Global Fund Accum	190.1	211.3	+0.5	0.41
Do Dist	189.3	201.4	+0.5	0.41
Gold Share Trust	25.5	28.2	+0.8	0.53
Hedged American	38.0	40.5	-0.2	0.50
High Income Trust	29.0	30.7e		5.86
Hong Kong Trust	37.3	39.7	+0.8	1.00
Income Fund	97.6	104.1	+0.9	2.94
Japan Trust	152.4	160.1	-1.1	0.00
Managed Exempt	308.1	317.9e	+1.4	4.83
Oil & Energy Trust	41.5	44.1		2.50
Special Sits Trust	128.4	136.7	+0.7	0.78
UK Smlr Co's Rec Tst	99.4	105.8	+0.2	0.60
Cheltenham UK	25.8	27.1	+0.2	1.95
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MANAGEMENT				
Winchester Hse, 77, London Wall, London EC2N 1DA				
01-588 5620				
Intl Growth	99.5	105.8	+0.9	0.99
American Growth	73.8	78.5	-0.5	2.21
American Inc	75.8	80.4e	-0.5	5.18
European Growth	253.1	249.2	-2.2	0.23
Gold & Minerals	71.4	76.0	+3.4	0.45
Japan Growth	93.1	98.7e	+0.7	
GRE UNIT MANAGERS				
Royal Exchange, EC3P 3DN				
01-588 9903				
Gilt & Fixed Int	121.8	128.4	-0.2	8.91
Growth Equity	262.9	267.7	+2.0	1.66
Guardhill	338.7	360.5	+1.8	2.29
N American	180.5	183.0c	-0.5	0.00
Pacific	302.9	320.6c	+3.1	0.00
Property Share	369.1	389.1	+0.9	1.06
Smaller Companies	277.6	293.6c	+3.0	1.33
European Trust	279.3	295.5	-0.8	1.87
GUINNESS MAHON UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
PO Box 442, 32 St Mary-at-Hill, London EC3P 3AJ				
01-623 9333				

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
High Income	85.7	89.8c	+0.2	5.13
N Amer Trust	119.0	125.7e	-0.7	0.70
Recovery	238.1	227.6c	+3.0	2.46
Gilt Trust	40.2	41.7	-0.1	8.65
St Vincent Inc	103.3	106.5	+0.9	4.84
St Vincent US Gth	77.3	80.6	-0.1	0.73
Temple Bar Sm Co's	229.3	252.5		2.62
Euro Gth Tst	48.7	51.6e		0.80
HAMBROS BANK UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
Admin: 5, Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex.				
Enquiries 0277 227300 Dealing 0277 217916				
Hambros Smlr Co's	173.5	184.1	+0.5	1.41
Hambros N Amer	71.4	75.8	-0.2	0.86
Hambros Jap & F E	142.2	150.9c	+0.7	0.40
Hambros Scandan	81.3	86.3	+0.2	0.65
Hambros European	104.8	110.7e	+0.1	0.82
Hambros Canadian	60.5	64.2	+0.1	1.01
Hambros Equity Inc	107.9	114.5	+1.1	4.56
Hambros High Inc	80.1	85.0e	+0.3	4.73
Hambros Rel Assts	72.8	77.3	+0.2	2.33
Assambros Int Sts	66.9	71.0	+0.3	0.70
HENDERSON				
Premier UT Administration Admin 5, Rayleigh Rd. Hutton, Brentwood, Essex.				
0277 217228				
Amer Recovery Tst	119.5	126.1	-0.2	0.16
Amer Smaller Co's	33.2	58.7c		0.01
Assets	108.0	115.7e	+0.1	2.65
Capital Growth Inc	68.5	73.0e	+0.4	1.43
Do Accum	79.7	84.9e	+0.3	1.48
European	274.5	292.0e		0.84
Euro Inc Tst	48.2	51.3	-0.3	3.44
Euro Smaller Co's	114.0	121.3	-0.1	0.16
Extra Income	221.1	229.2e	+2.2	5.30
Financial Trust	190.7	202.9	+1.9	2.00
Fixed Interest Tst	54.9	58.5e		8.17
Gilt Trust	43.7	46.5	-0.1	8.27
Global Healthcare	97.0	92.6	+0.3	0.01
Global Inc Accm	68.0	70.2	+0.3	4.42
Global Resources	126.0	134.0	+1.2	0.03
Global Tech	128.0	136.2	+1.2	0.00
Gold	93.9	99.9	+2.9	1.66
High Income Tst	233.3	248.2e	+1.8	3.82
Hong Kong	68.3	72.7	+1.9	0.33
Income & Growth Inc	181.2	192.8	+0.9	2.66
Do Accum	182.2

APPOINTMENTS

McCarthy & Stone: Sir Marcus Fox becomes a non-executive director.

Greig Fester (Agencies): Mr CJ Round joins the board as an executive director.

Helix Technology Group: Mr Peter Ward and Mr Max Goodison are made associate directors.

Chloride Group: Mr Michael Fareborother has been appointed managing director, Industrial Batteries. Mr Roger Holmes becomes group executive director, electrical and electronic. Mr Angus Fraser becomes group executive director, corporate operations. Mr Ron Horrocks becomes non-executive chairman, Mr Randal Thomas managing director. Mr Charles Griffiths marketing director, all of Exide Europe. Mr Ed van Geel becomes managing director, Exide International.

Mr Marshall & Company: At Marshall Woellwarth (Foreign Exchange), Mr Christopher Kelson has been appointed chief executive, Mr Michael Roberts joins the board as director and Mr Martin Ellison becomes finance director. At Marshall Woellwarth (Deposits), Mr Christopher Flanders becomes chief executive, Mr Adrian Walker and Mr Geoffrey Westbrook become managing directors and Mr Martin Ellison joins the board as finance director. At MW Marshall (Sterling), Mr John Tee becomes chairman, Mr Roger Webb chief executive and Mr David Hasler joins the board as director. At MW Marshall (Capital Markets), established from May 1, Mr David Froggatt, Mr Paul Alexander and Mr Jon Pyzer join the board as directors. Mr Martin Ellison will join the board as finance director.

York Trust Group: Mr Mark Vaughan-Lee becomes a non-executive director.

Official Airline Guides: Mr Tony Clarke has been promoted to general manager and area director for Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Dowty Information Systems: Mr Andy Sceats becomes executive director for sales.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Three Month Sterling					
Jun 87	90.70	90.70	90.63	90.68	1889
Sep 87	90.95	90.97	90.91	90.95	348
Dec 87	91.00	91.03	91.00	91.02	28
Mar 88	90.94	90.94	90.84	90.92	2
Jun 88	NT	----	----	90.79	0
Sep 88	NT	----	----	90.64	0
Dec 88	90.57	90.57	90.57	90.57	1
Mar 89	NT	----	----	90.35	0
Previous day's total open interest 25703					
Three Month Eurodollar					
Jun 87	93.29	93.31	93.24	93.26	4184
Sep 87	93.29	93.29	93.13	93.15	900
Dec 87	93.13	93.14	93.10	93.05	150
Mar 88	92.98	92.98	92.94	92.92	165
Jun 88	92.80	92.80	92.75	92.73	78
Sep 88	92.60	92.60	92.60	92.53	10
Dec 88	92.39	92.39	92.39	92.32	10
Mar 89	NT	----	----	92.11	0
Previous day's total open interest 25042					
US Treasury Bond					
Jun 87	97-08	97-12	96-13	96-17	4848
Sep 87	NT	----	----	95-15	0
Previous day's total open interest 4743					
Long Gilt					
Jun 87	123-28	123-28	123-01	123-13	21226
Sep 87	NT	----	----	123-13	0
Dec 87	NT	----	----	123-14	0
Previous day's total open interest 22833					
FT-SE 100					
Jun 87	200.20	201.70	199.30	199.60	1166
Sep 87	NT	----	----	204.10	0
Previous day's total open interest 4293					

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Admiral Comp (150p)	174
Airtours (180p)	194 –1
Br Airways (aa)	137 +6
Burford (80p)	170 +2
Camb Instr (130p)	132 +2
Capital Radio (105p)	183 +4
Castle Comm (200p)	220 +4
Cundell New (125p)	151
Dale Group (110p)	125 –1
Glentree (16p)	75 +5
Hewetson (70p)	87 +1
Hornby (100p)	113
JSB Elec (115p)	128
Lon & Metro (145p)	258 +6
MIL (144p)	197
Mallett (120p)	193
Melville (114p)	125 –1
Mercury Asset	313 –2
Misys PLC (95p)	128 –2
Nobo (152p)	178 –1
Perpetual (160p)	193
Plum Hldgs (90p)	171 +3
RCO (95p)	99 –1
Regina H Beauty (20p)	46 +1
Reliance Sec	171
Sanders Sydney (100p)	145
Scandinavian Bk (210p)	250 –1
Sinclair G S (90p)	96 +2
Thornton G W (135p)	175 +1
TSB Group (100p)	84 –½
Virgin (140p)	180 +2
Wilson Bowden (130p)	138 –2
Wyevale New (120p)	189

RIGHTS ISSUES

Allebone F/P	72 +1
City Site Est F/P	£118
DPCE N/P	35
Iceland N/P	40
Ladbroke N/P	40 –2
Nash Inds N/P	98
Pict Pet F/P	38
Witney F/P	43

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Mar 30	Apr 11	Jul 9	Jul 20

Call options were taken out on: 9/4/87 Cambridge Instruments, Oxford Instruments, Percy Bilton, G Oliver, Hardy & Hanson, Talbex, Conroy Pets., Property Trust, Amber Day, Wiggins, Wellman Engineering, Ryan International, Allied Plant, Polsteri, Sound Diffusion, Wellcome, Fobel, Abacus, Sheraton Securities, London Securities, Ault & Wiborg, Harris Queensway, Feedex, Lanca, Martin Ford, Blacks Leisure, AM Hire, North Kalgurli Mines, H Cory, Riley Leisure.

Puts: North Kalgurli Mines, Polly Peck, Phoenix Properties. Put & Call: Conroy Pets.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

	Market rates day's range April 9	Market rates close April 9	1 month	3 months
N York	1.6170-1.6195	1.6175-1.6185	0.49-0.46prem	1.34-1.29prem
Montreal	2.1070-2.1151	2.1084-2.1113	0.53-0.43prem	1.45-1.33prem
Ams'dam	3.3288-3.3418	3.3288-3.3333	1⅜-1¼prem	3¾-3⅛prem
Brussels	61.14-61.36	61.14-61.26	17-10prem	48-39prem
C'pngen	11.1365-11.1745	11.1365-11.1586	⅝-⅝dis	1⅛-1⅛dis
Dublin	1.1031-1.1099	1.1039-1.1046	20-26dis	57-69dis
Frankfurt	2.9495-2.9821	2.9495-2.9538	1⅝-1⅜prem	4⅛-4⅛prem
Lisbon	227.51-228.67	227.58-228.53	80-145dis	280-410dis
Madrid	206.95-207.54	206.95-207.25	100-125dis	314-357dis
Milan	2104.37-2112.23	2104.37-2108.91	2prem-par	3prem-1dis
Oslo	11.0354-11.0855	11.0354-11.0584	3⅛-4⅛dis	11⅜-12⅝dis
Paris	9.8134-9.9611	9.8134-9.8369	1⅜-1¼prem	4⅜-3¾prem
St'khlm	10.2647-10.3162	10.2647-10.2823	par-½dis	⅝-1⅝dis
Tokyo	233.97-235.88	233.97-234.36	1¼-1⅛prem	3⅞-3⅛prem
Vienna	20.75-20.80	20.76-20.79	10¼-8¾prem	28¾-25¼prem
Zurich	2.4481-2.4608	2.4481-2.4520	1⅝-1¼prem	3⅜-3⅛prem

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 72.2 (day's range 72.2-72.4).

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	2.4817-2.4913
Australia dollar	2.2668-2.2697
Bahrain dinar	0.6075-0.6115
Brazil cruzado*	36.9277-37.1304
Cyprus pound	0.7700-0.7900
Finland marka	7.1955-7.2355
Greece drachma	216.00-218.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.6182-12.6269
India rupee	20.80-20.80
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4400-0.4440
Malaysia dollar	4.0247-4.0288
Mexico peso	1830.0-1890.0
New Zealand dollar	2.8014-2.8081
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.0440-6.0840
Singapore dollar	3.4571-3.4610
S Africa rand (fin)	4.8969-4.9754
S Africa rand (com)	3.2865-3.2987
U A E dirham	5.9200-5.9600
*Lloyds Bank	

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Exsel.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.4520-1.4640
Singapore	2.1380-2.1390
Malaysia	2.4887-2.4897
Australia	0.7129-0.7134
Canada	1.3025-1.3035
Sweden	6.3650-6.3700
Norway	6.8375-6.8425
Denmark	6.8650-6.9000
West Germany	1.8270-1.8277
Switzerland	1.5180-1.5190
Netherlands	2.0530-2.0613
France	6.0760-6.0810
Japan	145.25-145.35
Italy	1302.0-1303.0
Belgium(Comm)	37.85-37.88
Hong Kong	7.8035-7.8040
Portugal	140.70-141.00
Spain	127.90-128.00
Austria	12.83-12.85

THIRD MARKET

1986 High	1986 Low	Company	Price Bid	Price Offer	Change
450	180	Abelscot Group	380	410	+5
50	10	Aberdeen Am Petrol	29	32	n/c
120	110	Allied Insurance	105	115	n/c
60	36	Catalyst Commercial	58	62	n/c
68	24	Corton Beach	63	68	+1
190	121	Edenspring Inv	180	190	n/c
63	10	Eglinton Oil Ireland	41	43	n/c
41	8	Do. Warrants	25	27	n/c
29	17	Publishing Holdings	28	30	+2
57½	46	Theme Holdings	51	54	–2
133	114½	Unit Group	112	117	n/c

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Base Rates %
Clearing Banks 10
Finance House 10½

Discount Market Loans %
Overnight High: 9% Low 3
Week fixed: 9%

Treasury Bills (Discount %)
Buying / Selling
2 mnth 9¹¹/₁₆ / 2 mnth 9⁹/₁₆
3 mnth 9⅝ / 3 mnth 9¾

Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 mnth 9¹³/₁₆-9²⁵/₃₂ / 2 mnth 9²³/₃₂-9¹¹/₁₆
3 mnth 9⁹/₁₆-9⅝ / 6 mnth 9⁷/₃₂-9⅜

Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 mnth 10⅝ / 2 mnth 10¹¹/₃₂
3 mnth 10⁹/₁₆ / 6 mnth 9²⁷/₃₂

Interbank (%)
Overnight: open 10 close 9
1 week 10¹/₁₆-9¹⁵/₁₆ / 6 mnth 9²¹/₃₂-9¹⁹/₃₂
1 mnth 10-9⁵/₈ / 9 mnth 9²⁵/₃₂-9²³/₃₂
3 mnth 9¹³/₁₆-9⅝ / 12 mth 9²¹/₃₂-9¹⁹/₃₂

Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 days 9¾ / 7 days 9¾
1 mnth 9¾ / 3 mnth 9¾
6 mnth 9¾ / 12 mth 9¾

Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 mnth 10⅛-9⅝ / 2 mnth 10-9¾
3 mnth 9¹³/₁₆-9¹¹/₁₆ / 6 mnth 9¹¹/₁₆-9⁷/₁₆
9 mnth 9⅝-9½ / 12 mth 9¾-9¾

Sterling CDs (%)
1 mnth 9¹¹/₃₂-9⁹/₃₂ / 3 mnth 9¹³/₁₆-9²³/₃₂
6 mnth 9¾-9½ / 12 mth 9¹/₁₆-9⅛

Dollar CDs (%)
1 mnth 6.40-6.35 / 3 mnth 6.45-6.40
6 mnth 6.55-6.50 / 12 mth 6.70-6.65

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Dollar		call	6½-5½
7 days	6¾-6⅛	1 mnth	6¾-6¾
3 mnth	6½-6⅜	6 mnth	6⅝-6½
Deutschemark		call	4¼-3¼
7 days	3⅜-3¼	1 mnth	3⁵/₁₆-3¹³/₁₆
3 mnth	3¹⁵/₁₆-3¹³/₁₆	6 mnth	4-3⅞
French Franc		call	8-7
7 days	8¹/₁₆-7¹⁵/₁₆	1 mnth	8¼-8
3 mnth	8⅜-8	6 mnth	8¼-8
Swiss Franc		call	1⅞-⅝
7 days	1¼-1⅛	1 mnth	3⁵/₁₆-3⅛
3 mnth	3¹¹/₁₆-3⁹/₁₆	6 mnth	3¾-3⅝
Yen		call	4¼-3¼
7 days	4-3¾	1 mnth	4¹/₁₆-3¹⁵/₁₆
3 mnth	4¹/₁₆-3¹⁵/₁₆	6 mnth	4-3⅞

BULLION

Gold:$421.75-422.25
Krugerrand (per coin, ex vat):
$ 426.00-426.00 (£263.50-265.50)
Sovereigns (new, ex vat):
$ 100.00-101.00 (£61.75-62.50)
Platinum
$ 580.50 (£346.50)
Silver
$ 6.6900-6.6800 (£4.1200-4.1400)

ECGD

Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period February 28, 1987 to March 31, 1987 inclusive: 10.053 per cent.

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Law Report April 10 1987 House of Lords

Good reason for extension of writ does not mean exceptional circumstances

Kleinwort Benson Ltd v *Barbrak Ltd*
Same v T. Choithram & Sons (London) Ltd
Same v Chemical Importation and Distribution State Enterprises
Same v Shell Markets (M.E.) Ltd
(Consolidated Appeals)
(The Myrto (No 3))

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Brandon of Oakbrook, Lord Brightman, Lord *Templeman and Lord Oliver of* Aylmerton

[Speeches April 8]

The power of the court under Order 6, rule 8(2) of the Rules of the Supreme Court to extend the validity of a writ for the purposes of service should only be exercised for good reason, but exceptional circumstances were not required.

The House of Lords allowed appeals by Kleinwort Benson Ltd ("the bank") from the Court of Appeal (Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, and Lord Justice Dillon) who on December 13, 1985, had allowed appeals by four defendants from *Mr Justice Sheen (The Myrto (No 3)* ([1985] 2 Lloyd's Rep 567). The judge had dismissed appeals by the defendants from Mr Registrar Rochford who had dismissed their applications for extensions of validity previously granted *ex parte* to the bank to be set aside.

Order 6, rule 8 provides: "(1) For the purpose of service, a writ ... is valid in the first instance for 12 months beginning with the date of its issue ...

"(2) Where a writ has not been served on a defendant, the court may by order extend the validity of the writ from time to time for such period, not exceeding 12 months at any one time, beginning with the day next following that on which it would otherwise expire, as may be specified in the order, if an application for extension is made to the court before that day or such later day (if any) as the court may allow."

Mr David Grace, QC, for the bank; Mr Michael Brindle for the defendants.

LORD BRANDON said that the Myrto had been mortgaged to the bank. In 1977 the bank had brought an action to enforce the mortgages and arrested the ship. His Lordship, then a judge of the Admiralty Court, had ordered that she be appraised and sold *pendente lite*.

It had first been necessary to discharge the cargo, owned by about 200 different owners. There had been a dispute as to whether the cost of discharge should be borne by the bank or the cargo owners.

Under an order of the Court of Appeal, each cargo owner, if he wished to obtain delivery, was to make a cash deposit or give an undertaking of indemnity backed by guarantee. The question of liability for the cost of discharge had been left over.

Having failed to negotiate a settlement of all its claims against the cargo owners, the bank had decided to bring proceedings ("the Sahami proceedings") against the owner with the greatest amount of cargo and seek to establish the principle that all cargo owners were liable to repay to the bank their respective shares of the cost of discharge.

Those proceedings could not, however, be tried until early in 1984, by which time the six-year limitation period would have expired. Accordingly, to protect its position, the bank had on November 4, 1982, issued an "omnibus writ" against 164 other cargo owners and guarantors.

It had, however, been anxious not to serve that writ with all the legal costs that would thereby have been incurred. It had, therefore, on October 20, 1983, applied to the Admiralty Registrar *ex parte* for an extension of its validity, which had been granted from November 4, 1983, to November 3, 1984.

In February 1984 in the Sahami proceedings Mr Justice Sheen (*The Myrto (No 2)* ([1984] 2 Lloyd's Rep 341)) had held that the cost of discharge should be borne by the cargo owners. No appeal had been brought from that decision.

The process of calculating the amounts due from each cargo owner had taken some time to complete, and accordingly on October 19, 1984, the bank had applied successfully *ex parte* for a second extension of the validity of the writ for three months from November 4, 1984, to February 3, 1985.

On January 24, 1985, the omnibus writ had been served on all the defendants.

The bank's plan had achieved substantial success; 35 of the *140 cargo owners or their guarantors* had paid the amounts claimed before the omnibus writ had been served. Following service, 79 remaining cargo owners had not defended the action.

Apart from the four respondents to the appeal to the House of Lords and 10 owners of very small parcels of cargo whose undertakings had been guaranteed by a bank now in liquidation, all cargo owners had paid.

That substantial success had been achieved without incurring more costs in the present action than those of issuing the omnibus writ in the first place, applying for and obtaining the two extensions and ultimately serving the writ on all the defendants.

In *Heaven v Road and Rail Wagons Ltd* ([1965] 2 QB 355) Mr Justice Megaw had concluded that the principle in *Battersby v Anglo-American Oil Co Ltd* ([1945] KB 23) had not been affected by the replacement of the previous Order 8, rule 1 by Order 6, rule 8. He had *stated it thus, at p361*:

"... the principle, or the general rule, to be applied is that leave will not be given to extend the validity of a writ when application is made retrospectively after the period of 12 months prescribed by the rules has expired, if the effect of so doing would be to deprive the defendant of a defence which he would have under the relevant statute of limitation supposing that leave to extend were not given and the plaintiff were thus compelled to serve a fresh writ. To justify the exercise of the discretion there must be exceptional circumstances."

It was to be stressed that the judge had there been dealing with a case where the application for extension had been made at a time when the writ had ceased to be valid and the limitation period had expired.

His decision had been expressly approved by the Court of Appeal in *Baker v Bowketts Cakes Ltd* ([1966] 1 WLR 861).

However, in *Jones v Jones* ([1970] 2 QB 576) the Court of Appeal had strengthened the view, already adumbrated in earlier cases, that what was required was "good cause" or "good reason" rather than the more stringent "exceptional circumstances".

His Lordship thought that Order 6, rule 8 should be interpreted as requiring "good reason" and nothing more. It was not possible to define or circumscribe the scope of that expression. Whether there was good reason must depend on all the circumstances of the particular case.

In a case where the validity of the writ and the limitation period had both expired, the applicant for extension would also have to give a satisfactory explanation of his failure to apply for extension before the validity of the writ had expired.

The decision of the Court of Appeal had been founded on the proposition that the only ground on which the validity of a writ could properly be extended was that there had been difficulties in effecting service of it. That proposition could not be supported, either as a matter of construction of the relevant rule of court or by any reference to the authorities.

The decision whether an extension should be allowed was a discretionary one for the judge. *Jones v Jones* showed that he was entitled to have regard to the balance of hardship. In doing so, he might well need to consider whether allowing an extension would cause prejudice to the defendant.

In the present case, the judge's judgment showed that, in exercising his discretion, he had taken into account the following matters:

First, that the case was a wholly exceptional one, as it undoubtedly was.

Second, that the bank's plan had been designed to save, and had saved, legal costs, which, if they had been incurred, would ultimately have fallen on the cargo owners.

Third, that the respondents had had their cargo delivered to them in 1977 and had then given undertakings to pay their shares of the cost of discharge if it should later be decided that they were liable to do so.

Fourth, that the respondents had known of the possibility of claims being made against them as a result of the bank's unsuccessful attempt to negotiate a settlement in 1979.

Fifth, that none of the respondents had been prejudiced by the delay in service of the writ.

Having taken all those matters into account, he had decided that the hardship to the bank if he set aside the extensions would outweigh the hardship to the respondents if he allowed them to stand.

In his Lordship's opinion, those matters, taken together, had constituted material on which the judge could properly hold that there was good reason for allowing the two extensions, previously granted *ex parte*, to stand.

Put shortly, the good reason had been the saving of unnecessary proceedings and costs achieved without any prejudice to the respondents.

His Lordship would allow the appeals and restore the judge's order.

Lord Keith, Lord Brightman, Lord Templeman and Lord Oliver agreed.

Solicitors: Constant & Constant for the bank; Peter Faber & Co; Norton, Rose, Botterell & Roche; Elborne Mitchell & Co for the defendants.

Bureaucratic buck-passing led to child's injury

Dear v Newham London Borough Council

Before Mr Michael Wright, QC

[Judgment April 9]

A local authority, which had been in breach of statutory duty under the Public Health Act 1936 in failing to clear away from the plaintiff's house rubbish which they had been requested many times to remove, owed a duty of care to the plaintiff and were liable for damages for the injury suffered by her which was substantially caused by their failure.

Mr Michael Wright, QC, sitting as a deputy judge in the Queen's Bench Division, so held in a reserved judgment when he found Newham London Borough Council liable for the injuries suffered by the plaintiff, Jane Dear, now aged seven, an infant suing by her uncle and next friend, as a result of an accident on August 13, 1981, when, aged 20 months, she fractured her skull after falling 13 feet from the balcony of the council flat in which she lived, having crawled on to house refuse placed on the balcony.

Mr George Pulman for the plaintiff; Mr Guy Sankey for the council.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the plaintiff was the sixth child of her mother. At the date of the accident all the children were under 14 years of age and the mother was heavily pregnant with her seventh child. The family lived in most straitened circumstances and the mother relied on supplementary benefit for support.

The rubbish, consisting of, *inter alia*, damp carpeting, an old tin bath and pieces of metal and plastic had been found in the roof space of the premises some months after the plaintiff's mother had moved into occupation with her family, and it was moved to the balcony by the mother's brother and father.

From the evidence, his Lordship found that there was a *regrettable degree of bureaucratic* "buck-passing" and unhelpfulness by departments of the council when approached for help by one of their residents to remove the rubbish.

His Lordship said that if a duty of care existed, there was little doubt that the defendants were in breach of it: their officers were aware of the existence of the rubbish, they regarded it as a health or safety *hazard, were aware of the* plaintiff's mother's circumstances and should have foreseen that its presence on the premises involved an unacceptable risk of injury whether by lacerations from sharp edges or falls into or from the pile, at least to the small children in the family.

Section 72(2) of the Public Health Act 1936 required a local authority to collect house refuse from the premises, which requirement was echoed in the council's by-laws, and there was no provision in those laws requiring the occupier to put his dustbin out in the street for collection.

The plaintiff's mother clearly gave notice she wished the refuse to be collected and the defendants were clearly in *breach of duty in failing to heed* her call; the evidence did not disclose any reasonable excuse to justify such failure, and certainly not over a period of some 18 months.

His Lordship, having considered the powers, duties and discretions arising under the 1936 Act to determine the scope and content of any duty of care owed by the defendants towards the plaintiff and adopting the approach of Lord Wilberforce in *Anns v Merton London Borough Council* ([1978] AC 728, 751-752), concluded that Part II of the 1936 Act, which contained section 72, viewed broadly was intended to set up a framework with the general aim of securing *both public health and safety*.

In contrast with the reasoning in *Peabody Donation Fund (Governors of) v Sir Lindsay Parkinson & Co Ltd* ([1985] AC 210, 242), which his Lordship accepted was clearly correct, it seemed too artificial to say that the plaintiff who broke a leg falling over an accumulation of refuse in an unlit part of premises had no remedy against the authority which, in breach of its statutory duty, had failed to clear it away, while he who contracted a disease from contact with the effluvia from the same accumulation could recover damages from the *authority as a result*.

Accordingly, the defendants were in breach of the duty of care owed to the infant plaintiff and the plaintiff was entitled to damages [which still had to be assessed] for the injuries she had received.

Solicitors: E. Edwards Son & Noice, East Ham; L. Watmore & Co.

More Crown counsel in sentence appeals hope

Regina v Dempster

Hope for the more frequent presence of Crown counsel at *sentence appeals was expressed* by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, sitting in the Court of Appeal with Mr Justice Farquharson and Mr Justice Gatehouse on April 9.

His Lordship expressed the hope after judgment was given by Mr Justice Gatehouse dismissing an appeal by Robert Dougan Dempster, aged 24, against sentences of life imprisonment passed at the Central Criminal Court by the Recorder of London (Judge Sir James Miskin, QC) on pleas of guilty to rapes of two women.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, said that their Lordships were grateful to both counsel – Mr Jonathan Goldberg, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant and Mr Allan Green for the Crown – for their assistance in the case, which was difficult.

In particular the presence of Mr Green was appreciated. As problems of sentencing became more and more complicated, so help *from the Crown* became more and more necessary.

Their Lordships hoped that the Crown would in future be represented on an increasing number of occasions before their Lordships' court when questions of sentence were being considered.

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Motoring by Clifford Webb

A powerful addition to the Family

Peugeot's 505 estates have long been a favourite of mine. Rugged and practical with vast load and passenger carrying potential they combine a smooth, quiet ride with safe predictable handling and acceptable fuel consumption for such a large vehicle.

The only shortcoming was lack of performance from the 2 litre engine when loaded. This has now been remedied with the arrival of the 505 GTi estate. The standard 108 bhp engine has been enlarged to 2165 cc and equipped with Bosch L-Jetronic fuel injection to boost output to 130 bhp.

The effect is immediately apparent. The extra torque has provided the punch at low revs that means less gear changing and more relaxed driving.

I drove the Family version with three rows of seats — loaded with four adults, enough luggage for two weeks and four sets of golf clubs. Acceleration was brisk enough to make overtaking safe in places where the standard estate would be labouring. It cruised comfortably at 90 mph and, unless a careful eye was kept on the speedo, would creep towards the "ton" with no apparent effort. In overdrive 5th gear it coped with motorway gradients without the need to change down when baulked.



The Peugeot 505 GTi Family: Bigger engine means more relaxed driving

Performance normally has to be paid for in increased consumption, but in this case it is so marginal it can be forgotten. I returned 27 mpg overall, including long stretches of high-speed motoring.

Stiffer suspension, wider wheels and tyres and a limited slip differential have sharpened up the handling and road holding to the extent that a loaded GTi can be thrown about like a much smaller car.

Standard equipment includes electrically operated windows and door mirrors, remote control central door and fuel filler cap locking, alloy wheels, heated front seats and driver seat height and lumbar adjustments. The load area is carpeted and protected by rubbing strips.

The GTi Family costs £13,260, compared with £11,155 for the 2 litre — a difference of £2,105. If you are prepared to settle for 2 rows of seats the difference is only £1,500. Either way it is money well spent to acquire one of the outstanding large estates of the last decade.

Vital Statistics

Model: Peugeot 505 GTi Family Estate
Price: £13260
Engine: 2165 cc injected
Performance: 0-62 mph 11.2 seconds, max speed 108 mph
Official consumption: Urban 23.3 mpg; 56 mph, 37.7 mpg; 75 mph 28.2 mpg
Length: 16.1 ft
Insurance: Group 5

Keeping track of the 4WS

Last month I reported on the race to be first into production with a mass-produced car equipped with four wheel steering (4WS). I have since driven an early example, but so brief was the drive and so artificial the circumstances that I am still not convinced it is ready to take its place alongside such major advances as four wheel drive.

The car, a Honda Prelude, was made available at Honda's new Swindon test track. With 4WS, in which the rear wheels are steered in the same direction as the front wheels, handling and manoeuvrability are improved but the minimum turning circle is increased.

Honda has solved this in a simple but ingenious way. As long as the driver turns the wheel within preset limits, the rear wheels steer in the same direction. When the limits are exceeded the rear wheels turn in the *opposite* direction, reducing the turning circle considerably.

On the track the 4WS Prelude could be swung in and out of a line of bollards while travelling 20 mph faster than a standard model. The same improvement was apparent in simple lane change manoeuvres at speed.

Honda claims it also improves stability, but I found it lacked feel at speed and was not reassuring. However I only had time for two circuits of the track — hardly enough to form a meaningful opinion.

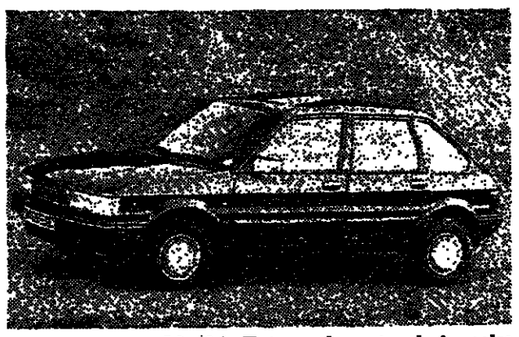
Before the first 4WS Preludes go on sale here next October I hope to try one over a much longer period and this time on the road.

Equipment before discounts

The massive discounting which has become firmly established in recent years is detested by all manufacturers and their dealers. They insist that even a motorist who gets a new car at bargain price is no better off when he comes to exchange it and finds that the resale value reflects what he paid for it.

The sales director of one of the largest British-based groups said: "We were forced into a rat race when we had to react to discounting by rivals. We thought at the time it was a short-term problem. We know better now, but efforts to get concerted action by manufacturers to end it have proved impossible."

The Big Three manufacturers, Ford, Austin Rover and General Motors, all deny starting it. Now, after years of bitter wrangling, they have come up with a partial solution. They are reducing sales bonuses paid to dealers — which made discounting possible in the first place — and increasing the amount of equipment and styling in their cars.



The new Maestro Mayfair: Extra equipment replacing sales bonuses to dealers

It is at least a move in the right direction as motorists will get better value for money. This week, for example, Austin Rover announced Montego models will receive between £100 and £500 worth of extra equipment for an average price increase of only 1% — from £5 to £200 depending on the model chosen.

In a similar move Ford is improving the specification of its Fiesta range — Britain's best selling small car — for an average price increase of 1%.

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Further investment and development properties also to be offered for sale by Auction at The Midland Hotel, New Street, Birmingham on Wednesday 27th May at 2.30pm.

For further information please contact James McBride, Alexander Stevens Druce, 16 Waterloo St., Birmingham B2 5UG
Telephone: 021-643 0674.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY

NOTICE OF MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the One Hundred and Sixtyfirst Annual General Meeting of the Members will be held in 150 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5NQ on Wednesday, 29th April, 1987 at Noon.
By Order of the Directors
W. PROUDFOOT
Chief General Manager and Actuary
150 St. Vincent Street,
Glasgow G2 5NQ.
18th March, 1987

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Trippier counters new debts law

Arguments raged again this week over legislation to tackle late payment of bills and whether interest should be charged on them. Dun & Bradstreet, the business information service, produced a survey revealing that 81 per cent of its clients had not read the Government's code of practice, *Payment on Time*.

Almost all those asked said they had problems with late payment of bills, with 18 per cent claiming serious difficulties.

The findings were eagerly trumpeted by the Forum of Private Business in its campaign to persuade the Government to change the law, but David Trippier, the small firms minister, is adamant that the proposal does not have wide support in the small business world. The Government remains concerned that such a law would more easily be used against small businesses than by them.

The forum, however, claims the backing of 19MPs from all parties for a law giving an implicit statutory right to be paid interest on debts paid after the agreed period.

The Government is now to publish a revised version of *Payment on Time* containing the reactions of the major UK corporations to letters sent by Mr Trippier on the code of conduct. The new version will also contain practical advice to businessmen on action they can take using the present legislation which allows the courts the discretion to award interest on delayed payment.

The £2 million story of a girl devoted to books

By Peta Levi

Judy Piatkus is one of the bright sparks of publishing. She left school at 17 to become a secretary in a publishing company, knowing already that she really wanted to run her own company. This year, Judy Piatkus (Publishers) Ltd expects a turnover of nearly £2 million.

She started her first publishing venture in 1974, aged 24, pooling resouces with a colleague to publish reprints of fiction and non-fiction long out of print, the market being mainly libraries.

Later she sold out for £25,000 and used the proceeds to develop a general publishing house selling fiction and non-fiction titles to bookshops throughout Britain, libraries and book clubs. Exports account for 15 per cent of turnover.

With 600 titles, Piatkus has a reputation for entertaining novels and reliable non-fiction. Several fiction authors whom Piatkus purchased in the first two years have become best-sellers and many of the most successful non-fiction books originated from Judy's ideas — *Fast Cakes*, by Mary Berry, *Children's Parties*, by Angela Hollest and Penelope Gaine, and a range of small gift books on different foods which has sold more than half a million copies.

Piatkus also launched in the UK the American best-seller *Colour Me Beautiful*, by Carole Jackson, which has sold more than 100,000 copies. The book, says Judy, "enables women to choose clothes which suit them best, dividing women into four colour categories according to hair, skin and eyes".

When she started, Judy had no business skills, just enthusiasm. Her first partner taught her about cash flow and financial forecasting, and she learned as she went along.

Being a single parent — Judy is divorced with three children under 10, the oldest being handicapped — and running a business at the same time cannot be easy, but she is a relaxed person who takes problems in her stride.

One of the reasons for her success is her ability to spot gaps in the market. On June 11 she launches a new trade paperback fiction list, starting with four novels followed by an additional two every month. She says: "There is a huge range of mass-market fiction. We think there is a market for good, entertaining novels, which are clearly identifiable on bookshelves — in this case by their pink, grey and cream jackets."

For the first five years, Judy ran her business from home, so the overheads were low. Piatkus then bought a property in Windmill Street, London, and now employs 12 people, including a marketing director and a non-fiction publisher.

Up to now, Judy has been managing director, financial director and publisher. Her aim is to grow and employ more people. The next stage wil be to buy a small publishing company with a complementary range.



Wordwise: publisher Judy Piatkus

BRIEFING

■ The latest package of simplified factsheets to help small companies cut through the complexities of employment law is now available, free of charge. Illustrated by Ken Pyne, who draws for this page, the pack includes a leaflet, *Taking Someone On?* and factsheets covering pay statements, maternity, secret ballots, union membership, time off work, unfair dismissal, and other topics.
The package, part of the Department of Employment's simplification campaign and of interest both to employers and employees, is available through Small Firms Centres, Jobcentres and unemployment benefit offices.

■ The Data Protection registrar is seeking views on his proposals to make it easier for small businesses to register under the DP Act. At present, the plan is for firms to have a simple method of registering for one or more of their most common computer applications such as payroll or direct mail. A standard register entry has been designed so that firms will not have to wade through the full form and its massive range of computer applications. A final version of the simplified forms should be available by the middle of the year.
Contact: *Data Protection Registrar, Springfield House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AX. Tel: (0625) 535777.*

■ An initiative to link the counselling skills and expertise of the Small Firms Service with local enterprise agencies has been announced by David Trippier, the small firms minister. Starting with a pilot scheme in Yorkshire and Humberside, SFS counsellors will be assigned to enterprise agencies to provide practical support, particularly for dealing with start-ups and very small firms. Independent consultants will monitor the initiative.

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MOTOR SPORT

Threat of strike averted but drivers far from prepared to back down

By John Blunsden

The threat of a top drivers' strike, which could have halved the field for Sunday's Brazilian Grand Prix, was lifted yesterday following a 90-minute meeting attended by 15 of the 23 drivers due to take part in Sunday's season-opening world championship race.

The dispute, which revolves around drivers being charged 1,000 French francs for every championship point scored last year on top of a flat fee of 5,000 francs for their super-licence "work permit", will now be aired at a meeting which the drivers are seeking in Europe next week with the FISA president, Jean-Marie Balestre.

Commenting on the decision, the world champion, Alain Prost, said: "We do not want to strike, but we need more time to go over the issue. We have decided to sign nothing until we have held a meeting with Balestre, and since he is not here at Rio, we shall expect to see him in Europe next week."

This means that at 10 o'clock local time this morning, when the green light will be switched on at the end of the pit lane, all 23 cars and drivers should stream out on to the 3.126-miles Jacarepagua circuit to begin practice for Sunday's 61-lap race. There should have been 26 cars on the grid on Sunday afternoon, but already there are three absentees.

Guy Ligier is preoccupied with a search for replacement engines for his two-car team following he collapse of his arrangement with Alfa Romeo, and his former racing manager, Gerard Larrousse, now setting up his own team, ran out of time with the assembly of his first Lola Cosworth.

March Engineering, making a return to Grand Prix racing after an absence of 10 years, also lost the battle against the clock, so they are fielding a modified Formula 3000 car for Sunday's race. Unfortunately, its fuel tank only holds 120 litres – 75 litres short of the Formula One limit – so Ivan Capelli, for one, already knows he cannot complete the distance in his first race with the team.



Prost: discussing the issues

Despite this, the new team sees their appearance in Brazil as an opportunity to gain invaluable experience prior to the first European race at Imola on May 3, by which time their proper Formula One car will be ready.

There could scarcely be a more testing venue for the season's first race with previously unraced equipment. The track surface of the anti-clockwise course is unusually abrasive, resulting in excessive tyre wear (the turbo-charged cars will probably have to make two tyre changes during the race, although those with normally aspirated engines may well get through with one). Invariably the race is held in intense heat, and the long fast corners put great strain on drivers' neck muscles which, despite winter fitness regimes, are rarely in top shape for the first race.

Today's hour-long qualification period will be the first for many years when every car will be running on race tyres and with engines in race trim. Inevitably, qualifying times will be slower than in the past, and Ayrton Senna's 1986 pole position time of 1min 25.5sec with his Lotus looks to be well beyond reach.

Nelson Piquet set the 1987 standard at the end of February when his Williams-Honda was timed at 1min 28.8sec during a week of tests at Rio, a time which was equalled last week during further tests by Teo Fabi in the promising new Benetton-Ford.

Anyone beating 1min 28sec in today's qualifying will have reason to feel satisfied.

Cricket countdown: Hadlee and Rice will not be sparing themselves

Talent lament of the North

By Richard Streeton

The North-South economic divide in Britain also has its counterpart in county cricket. Yorkshire, Lancashire and Derbyshire have been depressed areas in the championship for a decade and the patience of restive memberships, eager for success, could again be taxed this summer.

Nottinghamshire are rapidly approaching a period of change. It is hard to see them sustaining a challenge against the well-endowed clubs in the Metropolitan area, or the new challenges coming from the west at Gloucestershire and Worcestershire.

Yorkshire have put most of their political in-fighting behind them, but remain handicapped by their refusal to include an overseas player. Lancashire's summer will be closely watched and improved performances on the field would help heal wounds after grievous months of internal strife. Derbyshire might just spring a surprise in a one-day event.

None of these three teams, however, possess Nottinghamshire's depth in skill and experience, though there have to be reservations about an ageing side. They did well in all four competitions last year, but it was significant that they were unable to scale the final peaks.

Contrary to fears in the depths of winter, Rice and Hadlee will be back at Trent Bridge, both spurred to finish their careers on a successful note. Rice will not spare himself, but he will be 38 in July. Hadlee does not arrive until New Zealand's tour to Sri Lanka finishes in mid-May and will need to be nursed carefully this season.

Because of England calls, Broad, who made such strides in Australia, will also be absent from many matches. Broad and Robinson, the probable heir to Rice as captain, give Nottinghamshire the best first-wicket pair on the circuit. A beneficial change of winter job has left Randall chirpier than ever as he sets out to atone for last year's decline.

Other key contributors will be Hemmings, the off-spinner, who takes a testimonial and French, the wicketkeeper. Hemmings's continued presence has forced Such to move to Leicestershire. The rest of the new generation need to underline their presence this summer. In particular much is hoped from Johnson, with the bat and Afford (left-arm spin) and Pick (medium fast) as bowlers.

After 25 years Yorkshire will have an unaccustomed look without Boycott in the ranks and his consistent scoring and experience will undoubtedly be missed. That is not to say that the difficult decision the committee made was not right.

Metcalfe and Moxon, as an opening partnership, have enormous potential and Yorkshire should not be short of runs as a new era is launched. It will be necessary, though, for players like Love, Sharp, Neil Hartley and Robinson, whose careers have rather marked time, to seize the opportunity they have been given. Waiting in the wings is Blakey, one of the most gifted among young English batsmen.

Once again, though, there must be question marks concerning Yorkshire's bowling resources. Carrick, who has replaced Bairstow as captain, will look for greater penetration and also for better luck with injuries than the team have had in recent years. The close catching, too, must improve.

Meanwhile Jarvis has only to maintain the heartening progress he made in 1986 to become a candidate for higher honours. Provided Jarvis is not overworked, he and Sidebottom form a dangerous new-ball pairing.



Nottinghamshire's nugget: Hadlee rejoins his county in May after a sojourn in Sri Lanka

Hughes has tough task at Lancashire

Carrick's left-arm spin should benefit from the changed rule on covering and the rivalry between Swallow and the promising Berry for the off-spinner's role should be keen.

A three-week visit to St Lucia and Barbados for practice matches has given Yorkshire an early chance to settle down. Off the field an encouraging start has been made to the club's benefit year, which it is hoped will raise £500,000, mostly for a new indoor school. Overall there is no doubt that a better atmosphere pervades Headingley.

David Hughes at Lancashire faces a more daunting task than most new captains as he sets about restoring self-belief and confidence to a virtually unchanged staff. It has reflected little credit on previous regimes that a team of Lancashire's talents have lingered in the championship's bottom six for the past 11 years.

A traumatic period starting last September began with the dismissals of Bond and Lever, the manager and coach. Since then Clive Lloyd has retired amid further bouts of verbal mudslinging. Finally came the resignation of Cedric Rhoades after nearly 20 years as a despotic, visionary chairman.

His successor, Bob Bennett, a dynamic businessman, who is only 46, has already overhauled the committee structure. In a short space of time he has also instilled a new, corporate spirit among members, players and other staff. Now it is up to Hughes and Alan Ormrod, the coach, to invoke a productive response on the field.

Hughes, who is 40 in May, took Lancashire to the Second XI championship last summer in his first serious experience of captaincy. He has emerged as a positive thinker and an adventurous tactician, attributes not common to more than one of his recent predecessors.

Lancashire, who have been tuning up with a fortnight in Jamaica, will be hoping for good starts from Fowler and Mendis and consistent scoring will also be required from Fairbrother and Abrahams. Patterson, the West Indian, and Allott will share the new ball. Watkinson, in his two styles, can expect plenty of work and "Flat Jack" Simmons in his 47th year will no doubt earn his usual cheers.

Strong bowling at Derbyshire

Despite a strong attack, the trait has stopped them doing themselves justice. Wright, the New Zealander, has a benefit and the form of Roberts could be important.

Derbyshire, whose £26,000 profit last year was a club record, hold a strong hand in seam bowling for the limited-overs fixtures. Malcolm is now "English qualified" and vying for places will be Holding, Mortensen, Jean-Jacques, Warner, Newman and Finney. Not surprisingly a greater degree of bounce is expected from the pitches at Derby.

Derbyshire's morale has been boosted by the recent decision of John Morris to sign a five-year contract. Morris, the club's heaviest scorer in 1986, was unsure for a time whether his future lay with the county. Another fruitful season by him will be essential to cover the retirement of Hill and the departure of Miller to Essex.

Barnett, one of the more positive county captains, will again be trying to unravel the reasons for Derbyshire's inconsistency in recent years.

PLAYER CHANGES: Derbyshire: G Miller to Essex; A Hill retired. Lancashire: C H Lloyd retired. Nottinghamshire: P M Such to Leicestershire. Yorkshire: G Boycott not re-engaged; G B Stevenson to Northamptonshire.

GYMNASTICS

Champion of China is test for Borkai

By Peter Aykroyd

Ever since Nadia Comaneci, of Romania, made her international debut in 1975, the annual Vitalite Champions All tournament at Wembley has been an occasion when promising young gymnasts from leading countries are given their first taste of international competition.

Among the newcomers in tomorrow's 10-nation event are Andrei Krevisov and Tatiana Groshkova, the Soviet Union's junior and youth champions, and Fang Min, the Chinese all-round champion. Fang will be watched with particular interest. He won his national title last year in a field which, however, excluded all the well-known Chinese gymnasts. He is now a late challenger for their team for the world championships in Rotterdam in October.

Of the experienced competitors, Zsolt Borkai, of Hungary, ranked eleventh in the world, must have a good chance of success in the men's section. Valentin Pintea, of Romania, is another Eastern bloc gymnast with a reputation which must make him a favourite for a medal.

The women's contest includes three gymnasts in the world's top 20. They are Camelia Voinea (Romania) who came second last year, Boriana Stoyanova (Bulgaria) and Yang Yanli (China). On form, Miss Voinea should take the winner's title. In the Beijing World Cup last autumn, she came second in the floor exercise finals to Yelena Shushunova, the joint world champion.

From the West, the strongest challengers are Monica Covacci, of Canada, the Commonwealth champion, and Hope Spivey, the American No. 2.

The British champions and the runners-up are also competing – Andrew Morris and David Simpson for the men and Lisa Elliott and Karen Hargate for the women. Last year Morris missed gold by a fraction of a point.

Miss Elliott is fresh back from the America Cup in which she came ninth and Miss Hargate, aged 14, is the youngest performer in the competition.

Silverstone launches season

By David Tremayne

One of the busiest weekends in the motor racing calendar sees not only the start of the Grand Prix season in Brazil, but the opening European Formula 3000 race at Silverstone this Sunday.

Catering for single-seater chassis powered by three-litre engines, it is the intermediate step between Formula Three and Formula One, the breeding ground in which drivers learn to handle the powerful cars on circuits throughout Europe. Principal interest will centre on the fortunes of Andy Wallace, the Formula Three champion, and Russell Spence while Gary Evans and Mark Blundell are also expected to perform well.

Continental opposition comes from the Marches of Stefano Modena, Pierre-Henri Raphanel (Onyx), Yannick Dalmas, Olivier Grouillard (Oreca), Lamberto Leoni, Gabriele Tarquini (First) and Tomas Kaiser (Eddie Jordan); the Lola T87/50s of Luis Sala, John Jones (Lola Motorsport), Michel Trollé, Paul Belmondo (GDBA), Alfonso Garcia de Vinuesa, Michel Ferté, and Dominique Delestre (BS Automotive); and the Ralt TR21s of Pier-Luigi Martini and Paolo Barilla.

All will use the Cosworth DFY engine, but the works Ralts of Brazilians Mauricio Gugelmin and Roberto Moreno use Honda's V8 and are not to be discounted. Finally, Italian Marco Apicella could spring a surprise in the Dallara 3087.

Also on the bill at Silverstone is the third round of the Lucas British Formula Three championship, where Johnny Herbert will be out third win in the Stelrad Reynard, with Damon Hill, Gary Brabham, Bertrand Gachot and Perry McCarthy as the principal challengers.

The British touring car series also kicks off, with a far healthier entry than last year. In Italy, meanwhile, Jaguar will also be shooting for a third win, the Silk Cut XJR-8s again tackling the Rothmans Porsches in the world sports-prototype event at Monza, a much faster track than those in Spain

JUDO

Gawthorpe on verge of reclaiming team place

By Nicolas Soames

Stephen Gawthorpe, Britain's world featherweight bronze medallist, has just one more job to do to reclaim his place on the British team that goes to the European championships in May – he must get into the medal rankings at the British Open at Crystal Palace tomorrow.

There was a question mark over his ability to comeback to top level competition after a neck operation last year – after all, he is aged 28, holds a full-time job as a mechanic with Rotherham Council, and has been at the top level for a long time. And when he failed to regain form in the national championships and then the Scottish Open earlier this year, it looked as if either Mark Adshead, of Kendal, or Colin Savage, of Northern Ireland, would leapfrog over him.

But Gawthorpe, whose gawky style hides a devastating ability to strangle and armlock his opponents on the ground, shattered expectations by winning the Dutch Open two weeks ago, holding down a capable Russian opponent in the final.

He faces a strong challenge not only from domestic rivals, but from France, West Germany and other leading European nations – 15 countries have sent teams to the Open which, with 450 competitors, is the largest on record. It means that the Wolverhampton Judo Club will be hard pushed to equal last year's total of three Open titles from the seven weight categories, although Kerrith Brown looks like winning the lightweight category for the sixth successive year.

REAL TENNIS

Australia take on Britain for cup glory

From William Stephens
Paris

Britain begin the defence of the Bathurst Cup here today. Since its inception in 1922, the international amateur team competition has been won 28 times by Britain, five times by the United States and once by Australia; France have yet to win.

Earlier this week Australia eliminated France, and now challenges the holders. Britain are represented by Julian Snow, an Old Radleian who won the amateur championship last month, and Mick Dean, a master at Radley.

RESULTS: Elimination round: Australia bt France, 3-0. Scores (Australian names first): E Cockram bt D Grosdanovitch, 6-3, 6-5, 6-1; P Meares bt B Bartanque, 6-2, 6-0, 6-4; Meares and M Hayward bt Grosdanovitch and C Chueca, 6-0, 6-0, 6-3.

ICE HOCKEY

Panthers find themselves in a corner

By Norman de Mesquita

As the season enters the final and most exciting phase, there are rumblings of discontent. The quarter-final play-offs for the Heineken championship sees the top six finishers in the premier division divided into two groups of three. Who plays in which group is determined by finishing positions and Nottingham Panthers, with some justification, say that they are in a harder group than they should be because of weakness on the part of the British Ice Hockey Association.

Durham Wasps failed to fulfil their final league fixture – a much-postponed away game with Solihull Barons. On all known form, the Wasps would have won easily to finish in third place. This would have paired them with Murrayfield Racers and Fife Flyers with the Panthers playing off against Dundee Rockets and Ayr Bruins.

But, instead of insisting on the game being played, the Association declared it void with no points awarded to either team. The Panthers now have to face the Racers and Wasps, which represents a far harder task if they are to qualify for Wembley

Durham's success depends greatly on their attitude. For some reason, while they carry all before them during the regular season, they sometimes fail to find their best form in the play-offs. Two years ago, they lost at home to Streatham Redskins – which is akin to Liverpool losing at home to Rochdale – and there is always this nagging fear of failure when it matters most.

As usual, it will be the form of the imports that will be significant and Flyers, who open their quarter-final campaign at home to Bruins tomorrow night, will be hoping that Dave Stoyanovitch has fully recovered from a nasty cut caused last weekend by a wayward puck. Bruins will play their first two games without Andre Malo, their leading import, who is suspended.

The play-offs start with Racers against Panthers tomorrow afternoon and that game will be featured on BBC TV.

The other weekend matches are Durham against Murrayfield and Dundee against Fife on Sunday. There are then mid-week games at Nottingham (Tuesday), Dundee (Wednesday) and Durham and Ayr on Thursday before the series ends next weekend.

MODERN PENTATHLON

Amateur spirit is handicap

By Michael Coleman

One drawback for the officials attempting to run a sport like modern pentathlon is that a financial reward is never in sight for the competitors. In Britain even the leading performers remain truly amateur in spirit.

So neither Dominic Mahony nor Jason Lawrence, the two hottest properties at the moment, will be available for the only international contest taking place in Britain this year – at Aldershot this weekend, when 11 national teams take part. Instead of presenting himself on the fencing pistes on Saturday, Mahony, a Life Guards officer, will be engaged in his passing out parade at Sandhurst. Lawrence, a student, will be completing a geography field trip for his honours degree.

"There was no way I could get out of this trip. I had to do it," said Lawrence.

Lawrence's absence from Aldershot will not help the selectors who are looking for the team to go to this year's world championships in France. As well as Richard Phelps, Graham Brookhouse and Peter Hart, who make up the British A team at Aldershot, space must also be left in their reckonings for the talented Mahony.

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2. the amount of the permissable capital payment for the shares in question is £100,663.00
3. the date for the resolution for payment out of capital as 16th May 1987.
4. a statutory declaration and auditors' report required by Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for inspection at the Company's registered office, and any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following the date of the resolution for payment out of capital apply to the Court under Section 176 of the Companies Act 1985 for an order prohibiting the payment.
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T.P. SEVER
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1. Construction by the Secretary of State of a new bridge across the River Thames between Dartford, Kent, and Thurrock, Essex, together with associated works for or in connection with the provision of approach roads to the bridge and the improvement of the existing approach roads to the Dartford Tunnels between the junctions of the M25 with the A2 south of the river and with the A13 north of the river.
2. The intended works comprise the following:-
In the Borough of Thurrock -
Work No.1 - improvement of both carriageways of the M25 and the A282 (Dartford Tunnel Approach Road) from a point on the M25 south of its junction with the A13 to the existing viaduct carrying the A282 over the A126 and the Tilbury Branch Railway:
Work No.1A - a new road from the southbound carriageway of the A282 near that junction to the A126 at the eastern side of that viaduct, including a cycle track from the existing cycle track adjoining that carriageway to the A126:
Work No.2 - realignment and regrading of the A282 between the northbound carriageway of that road forming part of work No 1 and the northern portals of the Dartford Tunnels:
In the Borough of Thurrock and Dartford (parish of Stone)-
Work No.3 - a fixed bridge over the River Thames with approach viaducts between the southbound carriageway of the A282 forming part of Work No.1 and a point north of the existing Littlebrook Bridge over the A282:
In the Borough of Dartford (town of Dartford and parishes of Darenth, Stone and Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley) -
Work No.4 - a realignment and regrading of the A282 between the southern portals of the Dartford Tunnels and the said point north of Littlebrook Bridge:
Work No.5 - improvement of both carriageways of the A282 from Works Nos.3 & 4 to the junction of the A282 with the M25 north of its junction with the A2, including the reconstruction of The Bread bridge and the Watling Street Bridge over the A282:
Work No.5A - improvement of the M25 from Work No 5 to the bridge over the River Darent.
Work Nos.6A, 6B and 6C - improvements of the slip roads at Littlebrook Bridge comprising a new slip road from the southbound carriageway of the A282 south of that bridge to the eastern access to that bridge and new slip roads from the northbound carriageway of the A282 to the western access to that bridge:
Work Nos 7A, 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E and 7F, reconstruction of the Princes Road roundabout over the A282, including new road bridges over the A282 forming that roundabout and new slip roads from that roundabout to the carriageways of the A282 north of the roundabout:
Work No.8 - diversion of the B260 including a new bridge over the A282 in substitution for the existing Green Street Green Road Bridge:
Works Nos.9A, 9B, 9C, 9D and 9E - improvement of the junction of the M25 with the A2, including new slip roads from the A282, the A2 and the M25 to the roundabout at that junction and a widening of that roundabout:
Works Nos.10 and 11 - new link roads on both sides of the A282 from the Princes Road roundabout to the slip roads from the A282 to the junction of the M25 with the A2:
Work No.12 - diversion of the road to the Dartford International Ferry Terminal at a point near its junction with the eastern access to Littlebrook Bridge
Works Nos.13 and 14 - new roads from the western access to Littlebrook Bridge to the access road to Littlebrook Power Station and from that new road to the existing lorry park on the west side of the southbound toll booths of the Dartford Tunnels:
3. Acquisition by the Secretary of State of lands, or rights over land required for or in connection with the intended works, including lands required for working sites and access, the diversion of electricity cables and the construction of retaining walls and rights in land required for ground anchors for those walls; acquisition of subsoil or airspace only in the case of certain specified lands; extinguishment of private rights of way; powers for the temporary occupation of sites and parts of the river and temporary closure to navigation of part of the river in connection with the construction of works; and application of provisions of Part I of the Compulsory Purchase Act 1965, section 4 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 and section 261 of the Highways Act 1980:
4. Powers for the stopping up or diversion of specified lengths of roads, cycle tracks and footpaths as shown on the plans referred to below; provision for the satisfactory completion of roads, cycle tracks and footpaths to be provided in case of diversion; temporary interference with, stopping up or diversion of highways for the purpose of construction of the intended works; provision to determine the status of roads to be constructed or improved together with ancillary operations and works; application of appropriate provisions of the Highways Act 1980 relating to the construction and improvement of highways and the stopping up of highways; and the regulation of traffic on roads to be constructed and other roads, including provision for traffic regulation on The Brent, Watling Street and Lingfield Avenue to facilitate construction of part of Work No.8:
5. The transfer, on a date to be appointed by the Secretary of State ("the transfer date"), to the Secretary of State, as a trunk road, of so much of the A282 as passes through the Dartford tunnels or over the approaches to the tunnels, together with lands and other property vested in the Essex County Council and the Kent County Council or either of those councils ("the County Councils") for the purposes of the tunnel crossing and those approaches, together with certain liabilities relating thereto; the transfer of such of the highways of other roads within the tunnel crossing lands; and the repeal of the Dartford Tunnel Act 1984:
6. Appointment by the Secretary of State of a person to levy tolls under the intended Act by a contract providing for the construction of the bridge by that person and the maintenance by him of the tunnels and bridge and other lands forming part of the river crossing; and transfer to the person so appointed of the toll undertakings of the County Councils as existing before the transfer date, including moveable property vested in the County Councils or either of them before the transfer date for the purposes of the tunnel crossing, rights and liabilities relating to such property, to land within the tunnel crossing or to agreements for payment of tolls in advance and other rights and liabilities relating to money due for payment before the transfer date:
7. Supplementary provisions relating to the transfers to the Secretary of State and to the person appointed to levy tolls of such property or liabilities as may be agreed between the Secretary of State and the County Councils, and the transfer to the Secretary of State or to the person appointed to levy tolls, or back to the County Councils, of properties referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 above as may be directed by the Secretary of State after consultation with the County Councils; and transitional provisions with respect to agreements and to other property or liabilities transferred and the saving of byelaws regulating the tunnel and their approaches:
8. Transfer to employment by the person appointed to levy tolls, or to employment by the Secretary of State, of persons employed by the Kent County Council for the purposes of the tunnels on terms determined in accordance with the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981 and any relevant collective agreement between the County Council and a trade union:
9. Extinguishment of liabilities of the County Councils in respect of sums borrowed from the Secretary of State in respect of expenditure incurred upon the tunnel undertakings and the discharge by the Secretary of State of liabilities of the County Councils in respect of sums borrowed otherwise than from the Secretary of State in respect of such expenditure, subject to deduction of amounts received from tolls held by the County Councils at the transfer date; and payment by the Secretary of State of expenses incurred by the County Councils in connection with the transfer of property or liabilities:
10. Power for the person appointed to levy tolls or, on termination of his appointment, for the Secretary of State to levy tolls for the use by vehicles of the tunnels or the bridge with provision for the toll for each class of vehicle to be revised periodically by order of the Secretary of State; the toll for a class of vehicle to be fixed by reference to the toll leviable on 1st January 1986 subject to increase in accordance with percentage increases in the retail price index; exemption from tolls of vehicles of specified descriptions; composition agreements for payment of tolls in advance; penalty for failure to pay, or evasion of payment of, tolls; and temporary suspension of tolls by the person appointed to levy tolls or the Secretary of State if tolls are leviable by him.
11. Cessation of tolls leviable by the person appointed to levy tolls on the expiration of a period, determined by reference to the aggregate revenue produced by tolls in that period less allowable expenditure (as determined by the contract of appointment) and the financial commitments of that person in respect of loans and loan stock, or such longer period as may be determined by the Secretary of State for the recoupment of allowable costs, subject to a maximum period of 20 years; and provision for the cessation of tolls, if they become leviable by the Secretary of State, on the expiration of that period of 20 years or, if so determined by order, on the expiration of a further period, not exceeding 6 years, after that period of 20 years:
12. Power for the Secretary of State to delegate functions with respect to the maintenance and improvement of the river crossing to the person appointed to levy tolls or, if tolls become leviable by the Secretary of State, to any person appointed to collect tolls as his agent or, on cessation of tolls, to any person he thinks fit; the leasing of lands and easements to the person appointed to levy tolls; provision for transfer to the Secretary of State on termination of the appointment of a person to levy tolls of certain property and liabilities of that person; and provision for the transfer to employment by the Secretary of State of persons employed by the person appointed to levy tolls in connection with that function similar to the provisions mentioned at paragraph 8 above:
13. Appointment by the person appointed to levy tolls or the Secretary of State of traffic officers to secure the observance of traffic regulation orders, byelaws and other provisions; prohibition of the use of the river crossing by persons on foot, animals and vehicles not moved by mechanical power, subject to specified exemptions including breakdown or emergency; powers to stop and remove persons contravening such prohibition; provision for the suspension or limitation of such prohibition; regulation of the use of the river crossing by large vehicles, of the conveyance through the tunnels of dangerous goods, for fire precautions, and for the prohibition of vehicles from stopping on the river crossing or its approaches, including powers for the removal of such vehicles by traffic officers or constables; and provision for the conveyance of bicycles and cyclists through the river crossing without charge:
14. Power for the construction of subsidiary works in the river, the use of the river and the mooring of boats for construction or maintenance of the bridge or tunnels; exclusion from planning control of works carried out in connection with the crossing otherwise than by or on behalf of the Secretary of State; disapplication of statutory controls on the carrying out of operations for maintenance or improvement; application of Part II of the Public Utilities Street Works Act 1950; and prohibition of works on the crossing and approach roads without the consent of the Secretary of State.
NOTICE IS ALSO HEREBY GIVEN that as from 3rd April 1987 plans and sections of the intended works with a book of reference thereto relating to the purposes of the intended Act, including plans of the lands of the County Councils referred to in paragraph 8 above, will be available for public inspection at the offices of the following officers:-
+the Chief Executive and Clerk of the Essex County Council at County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1LX;
+the County Secretary and Solicitor of the Kent County Council at County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ;
+the Chief Executive of the Dartford Borough Council at Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford, Kent, DA1 1DR;
+the Chief Executive and Town Clerk of the Thurrock Borough Council at Council Offices, Whitehall Lane, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL;
the Clerk to the Darenth Parish Council, Darenth Hall, Ladywood Road, Lane End, Darenth, Dartford, Kent, DA2 7LL;
the Clerk to the Stone Parish Council, the Council Offices, Hayes Road, Stone, Greenhithe, Kent;
and the Clerk to the Sutton-at-Hone and Hawley Parish Council, 53 Main Road, Sutton-at-Hone, Dartford, Kent DA4 9HQ.
As from 3rd April copies of the Bill will be available for public inspection at each of the above-mentioned offices and at the offices of the undersigned Parliamentary Agents and copies of the Bill will be available for sale at the offices of the persons listed above marked thus + and at Her Majesty's Stationery Office at 49 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6HB.
In the House of Commons objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it by a date determined by an Order made when the Bill is read a Second time in that House and committed. Information as to the deposit of such a Petition may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undersigned Parliamentary Agent.
DATED this 2nd day of April, 1987
G.H. BEETHAM
Department of Transport
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 3EB
Legal Adviser
H.W. GAMON
Queen Anne's Chambers
3 Dean Farrar Street
Westminster
London SW1H 9LG
Parliamentary Agent

RACING: DISAPPOINTING TURNOUT FOR NEWBURY'S FRED DARLING STAKES

Stoute's Sansiya to show way in substandard Guineas trial

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Now that Forest Flower, Minstrella, Polonia and Canadian Mill have all been withdrawn from today's Gainsborough Stud Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury, because of the heavy ground, much of the original interest in this classic fillies' trial has evaporated.

We are left with a field of only five, comprising Blessed Event, who has never run, Semis, still a maiden after seven attempts, the Leicester winners Littlefield and Sansiya, and Stay Low, whose three wins last season, at Doncaster, Lingfield and Milan, were all achieved on softish ground.

At least four of the owners will have the satisfaction of knowing that they have been placed in a group race even though that achievement will have a rather hollow ring to it. However, fortune favours the brave.

Unless Blessed Event, Barry Hills' well-bred newcomer is a bit special, I believe today's race will be won by **Sansiya**, who is one of seven that Michael Stoute still has engaged in the 1,000 Guineas. Being by Dalsaan, she should not mind the ground. Also George Robinson, our Newmarket Correspondent, speaks quite well of her progress on the Heath this spring.

No matter how Blessed Event fares, the new master of Manton and Cash Asmussen, who has made the day trip from Ireland where he is now primarily based riding for Vincent O'Brien, can win the *Mail On Sunday* Three-Year-Old Series Stakes with **Startle**, who could easily turn out to be a blot on this handicap.

Today's nap, though, is entrusted to Richard Quinn on **True Fact** in the Beckhampton Maiden Stakes. A strong-finishing third in the Brocklesby Stakes at Doncaster on the first day of the season, Paul Cole's colt, by Known Fact out of Flying Nelly, looks poised to capitalise on both his fitness and experience.

Always A Lady, who was backed down to 8-1 from long odds before she won at Leicester ten days ago, can follow up with another win in the Chieveley Stakes.

If this year's Lincoln form means anything at all, **Honest Toil** should be hard to beat in the Birdforth Handicap at Thirsk. When he finished sixth in that Doncaster lottery *Well Rigged*, *Try Harder* and Prince Merandi were all well behind him.

While Henry Cecil's decision to run the promising stayer Arden in the Sowerby EBS Stakes instead of Wolsey is surely significant, I still have a stronger feeling for **Brother Patrick** from Lester Piggott's in-form stable.

Being by Blakeney and out of a mare by High Top, my selection should also relish both the distance and the give underfoot. Brother Patrick also managed to finish third in the Horris Hill Stakes at Newbury last October and that is Group form. Arden's was achieved on a less exhalted level.

At Ayr, I give that hardy annual **Ra Nova** a good chance of adding the Scottish Champion Hurdle to his list of achievements which already includes the Welsh equivalent and the Schweppes Gold Trophy.

Later, **Kildimo** appears to have the Edinburgh Woollen Mill Equorian Novices Chase at his mercy following his emphatic victory in the Sun Alliance Chase at Cheltenham.

Blinkered first time
NEWBURY: 2.0 Zermatterhorn.



Toby Balding's Cheltenham scorer Kildimo, who is fancied to follow up at Ayr

POINT-TO-POINT

Mahon the crusader for rights of owners

By Brian Beel

As is obvious to all who have heard his after-dinner speeches, Jim Mahon, the founder of the Point-to-Point Owners' Association, has his roots in Ireland.

Brought up among work horses, hunters and a racehorse or two, he claims he was only a moderate rider, but when he came over to England, after the last War, he had a number of successes with his horses.

His horses were sold when he bought his first farm but the interest in racing was never lost, although it was to be about 20 years before he became active in point-to-pointing again.

On the realisation that the people who were most involved in the sport had no say whatsoever in its administration, Mahon became interested in the regulations governing it.

"The particular bee in my bonnet," he says, "related to five-year-olds having to carry 12st 7lb and with a penalty, 13st." He had letters published in the press and wrote to the RSPCA but nothing happened.

In 1977, he called a meeting of 50 experience owners with a view to petitioning the Jockey Club. The meeting unanimously approved his motion and also agreed that owners should be represented where the rules were made.

The outcome was the formation of the Point-to-Point Owners' Association and Mahon was elected as chairman. The next year, five-year-olds were given the 7lb allowance, still in force today.

From the start owners supported the Association and sponsorship was attracted on a scale never previously contemplated. In 10 years since formation the PPOA have sponsored, or arranged sponsorship, to the tune of about £300,000.

Jim Mahon retired as chairman of the PPOA last year, but is still actively involved in the Association's own point-to-point. As chairman of this committee, he has overseen the development of the new course at Ashorne at which, next Tuesday, Princess Anne will grace this year's meeting.

His philosophy that point-to-points should be the nursery for three-mile chasers and the springboard for the jockeys of tomorrow, is the reason that he supports the Jockey Club and the administrative authority, but he firmly believes that PPOA should have a voice in the decision making.

"Ten years ago, on the steps Portman Square, I was told that any horse that could not carry up to 14st out hunting should *not be encouraged to go point-to-pointing*", he relates. "Things have changed a lot since then and will continue to change but if point-to-pointing is to thrive, a *special effort will have to be* made to induce the townmen to enjoy a sport from which he has almost been discouraged. The insular and exclusive attitude of the past is now out of date".

Judging by the apparent indifference of the administrative authority in promoting the sport to attract the paying spectator, many will echo these sentiments.

NEWBURY

Selections

By Mandarin	By *Our Newmarket* Correspondent
2.00 Lavrosky.	2.00 —
2.30 TRUE FACT (nap).	2.30 Tang.
3.00 Sansiya.	3.00 Sansiya.
3.30 Startle.	3.30 Paleface.
4.00 Always A Lady.	4.00 —
4.30 Tigerwood.	4.30 —

By Michael Seely

3.00 Sansiya. 3.30 Startle. 4.00 MONETARY FUND (nap).
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: TIGERWOOD.

Going: heavy **Draw no advantage**

2.0 SPRING MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,945: 1m 3f) (13 runners)

101	(11)		AL HASHIMI (Dana Stud Ltd) K Brassey 9-0	S Whitworth	—
102	(2)		BADIHAR (K Abdulla) J Tree 9-0	S Raymont	—
105	(12)	3-	BY THE FIRESIDE 184 (R E A Bott Ltd) C Nelson 9-0	J Reid	● 99
106	(4)	0-	CORBADGE 185 (F Salman) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	74
110	(8)		HOSPITABLE (Lord Rotherwick) W Hern 9-0	B Proctor	—
111	(1)		IDREASE (F Salman) P Cole 9-0	P Waldron	—
112	(5)	6-	LAVROSKY 203 (K Abdulla) J Tree 9-0	Pat Eddery	88
113	(6)		NORAN WATER (G Smart) N Vigors 9-0	P Cook	—
116	(9)	00-	SONG OF SIXPENCE 160 (P Mellon) J Balding 9-0	T Ives	97
118	(7)	3-	TIBER RIVER 268 (Sir J Assor) W Hern 9-0	W Carson	84
119	(3)		TILDESO (P Goulandris) H Candy 9-0	W Newnes	—
121	(6)	0-	LAURISTON COTTAGE 244 (R Coombe) Pat Mitchell 8-11	R Cwiert	—
122	(10)		ZERMATTERHORN (B) (C Ironside) R Smyly 8-11	B Thomson	—

BETTING: 5-2 Lavrosky, 3-1 Tiber River, 9-2 By The Fireside, 6-1 Song Of Sixpence, 8-1 Corbadge, 10-1 Al Hashimi, 12-1 Idrease, Noran Water, 14-1 Others.

1986: PAEAN 9-0 S Cauthen (5-6 fav) H Cecil 14 ran

2.30 BECKHAMPTON MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: C & G: £3,034: 5f) (7 runners) BBC 2

202	(3)		CLASSIC RULER (W Patterson) C Nelson 9-0	J Reid	—
204	(5)		HORATIAN (J Tudor) N Vigors 9-0	P Cook	—
205	(1)	0	PENDALTY 11 (P Bourke) K Brassey 9-0	N Adams	—
208	(2)		ROYAL DARTMOUTH (Axminster Carpets Ltd) L Cottrell 9-0	W Carson	—
209	(4)		SEXTON (Nimrod Company) R Hannon 9-0	A McGlone	—
210	(6)		TANG (D Margolis) P Kelleway 9-0	S Cauthen	—
211	(7)	3	TRUE FACT 15 (F Salman) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	—

BETTING: 5-4 True Fact, 4-1 Classic Ruler, 11-2 Tang, 8-1 Sexton, 10-1 Horatian, Pendalty, 20-1 Royal Dartmouth.

1986: ARAPITI 9-0 S Whitworth (9-4) K Brassey 9 ran

FORM CLASSIC RULER (Foaled Mar 14) is by one of the leading sire's of juveniles - Dominion - and out of a dam that won as a two-year-old. At 20,000 gns he was above the average price paid for sire's progeny in 1986. HORATIAN (Mar 24) 16,522 gns, is by top class miler and prolific winning juvenile Horage - Dam was placed as a juvenile and this one should be a sharp sort. PENDALTY will need to improve on (8-11) a 17l 5th to Schrot Handler (8-11) at Folkestone (5f, 2584, heavy, Mar 30, 10 ran). SEXTON (Feb 15) 10,000 gns as a yearling and is out of a dam who won at 2 years over 7f. Sire's progeny usually need at least 6f to score as juveniles. TANG (May 14) although a late foal was the most expensive of Mansingh's yearlings sold at public auction in 1986 (17,500 gns). He is a brother to useful sprinter Blue Singh and if forward enough could go very well. TRUE FACT made a very promising debut when (8-11) 2l 3rd to Great Chaddington (8-11) at Doncaster (5f, £3226, soft, Mar 25, 15 ran). Selection: TRUE FACT

3.0 GAINSBOROUGH STUD FRED DARLING STAKES (Group III: 3-Y-O fillies: £18,110: 7f 60yd: rnd) (5 runners) BBC 2

302	(4)			BLESSED EVENT (R Sangster) B Hills 9-0	C Asmussen	—
308	(5)	21830-1		LITTLEFIELD 10 (F,S) (Mrs R Chaplin) I Balding 9-0	T Ives	● 99
311	(3)	1-		SANSIYA 158 (H H Aga Khan) M Stoute 9-0	W R Swinburn	97
313	(2)	000000-3		SEMIS 11 (H Saunders) P Arthur 9-0	D Price	85
315	(1)	331403-		STAY LOW 226 (F,S) (G Blum) G Blum 9-0	Pat Eddery	96

BETTING: 4-5 Sansiya, 5-2 Littlefield, 5-1 Blessed Event, 14-1 Stay Low, 33-1 Semis.

1986: MAYSOON 9-0 W R Swinburn (11-2) M Stoute 10 ran

FORM LITTLEFIELD (8-13) proved she handled soft ground well when a comfortable 2½l winner from Hooray Lady (8-8) at Leicester (1m, £2251, Mar 31, 6 ran). SANSIYA (8-11) showed a lot of promise when beating Nom de Plume (8-11) an easy ¾l at Leicester (6f, £1712, good, Nov 3, 15 ran). SEMIS (8-4) just over 2l 3rd to Sharblask (8-8) at Leicester (6f, £2545, soft, Mar 30, 8 ran). STAY LOW (8-8) is a Group 3 winner on heavy ground at San Siro (6f, £13134, June 15, 8 ran) with Hustle Cock (8-11) a head 2nd, and the consistent Regency Rifle (8-8) another 1½l back in 3rd. Selection: STAY LOW

AYR

Selections

By Mandarin

2.00 Warwick Suite.
2.35 Mareth Line.
3.10 Ra Nova.
3.40 Kildimo.
4.10 Just For The Crack.
4.40 Water Wagtail.

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft (hurdles)

2.0 ROYAL BURGH OF AYR MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURLDE (£2,649: 2m 6f) (8 runners)

3	3-14200		HA'PENNY NAP 23 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs B Ramsden) K Stone 9-11-7	J D Davies (4)	● 99
4	3-00U46		MISTER HARTIGAN 28 (S) (Mrs E Ellis) J Edwards 7-11-6	T Morgan	89
6	00PP01		WATER CANNON 20 (V,S) (F Lee) F Lee 6-11-1	C Hawkins	90
8	000102		WARWICK SUITE 20 (V,C,G,S) (P Davies) M Naughton 5-10-13	M Hammond	92
9	023003		ROMAN DUSK 18 (G,S) (W Lockey) J Charlton 7-10-13	P Dennis (4)	93
13	301330-		THORBELL ARCH 345 (C,F,G) (R Gray) R Gray 8-10-9	C Grant	89
214	000323		HARLEY 25 (G) (Miss J Eaton) Miss J Eaton 7-10-8	C Dennis (7)	92
17	0000-00		JOHNSTON'S BABY 22 (V,S) (F McKevitt) E Alston 8-10-0	K Doolan	—

BETTING: 9-4 Water Cannon, 11-4 Warwick Suite, 9-2 Ha'penny Nap, 6-1 Roman Dusk, 10-1 Thorbell Arch, 12-1 Harley, 16-1 others.

1986: TABERNA LORD 5-9-7 D Condell (25-1) D Moorhead 6 ran

2.35 I.C.I. PETROL NOVICE HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,574: 2m) (6 runners) C 4

2	211031		MARETH LINE 17 (D,S) (Craydale Ltd) M Pipe 11-7	P Scudamore	● 99
4	321225		NOS NA GAOITHE 22 (V,D,S) (P Green) M H Easterby 11-7	L Wyer	96
5	P00100		ALBERT THE GREAT 63 (B,D,G) (I Rodden) R Gray 11-4	C Grant	64
7	3112		MERITMOORE 16 (CD,BF,S) (G Borak) G Moore 11-4	M Hammond	80
9	10000		WAVE GOODBYE 25 (S) (J Hickie) H Wharton 11-4	N Doughty	68
13	000		DEEP DESIRE 25 (Miss J Eaton) Miss J Eaton 10-9	C Dennis (7)	—

BETTING: 11-8 Nos Na Gaoithe, 9-4 Mareth Line, 3-1 Meritmoore, 6-1 Albert the Great, 12-1 others.

1986: WARWICK SUITE 11-6 M Hammond (5-4 fav) M Naughton 5 ran

FORM MARETH LINE, an out and out front runner, comes from the in-form Martin Pipe stable and (11-8) showed best form last time when easily beating Good Lord (11-2) a distance at Fontwell (2m 2f, £1716, heavy, Mar 24, 11 ran). NOS NA GAOITHE is only just short of top class for this age group and (11-0) ran the very useful Aldino (10-10) to a head at Huntingdon on penultimate start (2m, £3366, heavy, Feb 24, 9 ran). ALBERT THE GREAT steps up in class here and (10-12) was a well beaten 15½l 6th to Comanchero (10-10) at Kelso (2m, £685, good, Feb 6, 15 ran) last time with WAVE GOODBYE (11-2) a most disappointing 9th. Subsequently WAVE GOODBYE showed better form when (11-11) 4(7) 5th to Albert Hall (11-1) at Market Rasen (2m, £3460, soft, Mar 7, 11 ran), that is nowhere near good enough to win this. MERITMORE is admirably consistent and comes from another stable going well, last time (11-5) up to best when 4l 2nd to Treyarnon (11-1) at Kelso (2m, £685, good to soft, Mar 25, 8 ran). Selection: NOS NA GAOITHE

3.10 GLEN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION HURDLE (Limited Handicap: £7049: 2m) (7) C 4

2	043101		NEBLIN 22 (D,F,G,S) (A Leamer) G Balding 6-11-7	R Guest	94
3	412002		RA NOVA 13 (D,F,G,S) (Lady Matthews) I Matthews 8-11-3	M Perrett	● 99
4	313PFF		LITTLE BAY 6 (F,G,S) (Mrs S Catherwood) G Richards 12-11-2	P Tuck	80
5	12-0300		HUMBERSIDE LADY 42 (G,S) (Humberside Enterprises) J Cosgrave 6-10-11	G McCourt	—
6	14110		POSITIVE II (V,D,G,S) (Ottercleam Associates Ltd) K Bailey 5-10-8	P Crowther	89
7	310403		YABIS 6 (D,BF,F,S) (K Al-Said) J Edwards 6-10-7	P Scudamore	95
8	113228		RECORD HARVEST 55 (D,S) (Lt Col R Warden) M H Easterby 6-10-7	L Wyer	82

BETTING: 7-4 Neblin, 5-2 Ra Nova, 7-2 Positive, 6-1 Yabis, 8-1 Record Harvest, 16-1 others.

1986: RIVER CERRIG 6-10-9 S Smith Eccles (4-1) N Henderson 7 ran

FORM NEBLIN, inexplicably beaten in the Imperial Cup at Sandown, showed best form when (11-7) beating Cool Strike (10-0) an easy 4l at the Cheltenham Festival (2m, £12609, good, Mar 19, 24 ran). Previously (10-0) landed a gamble when winning Tote Gold Trophy by 2½l from Mrs Muck (10-10) with YABIS (10-8) up to best 4l away 4th, HUMBERSIDE LADY (11-7), RA NOVA (11-4) and RECORD HARVEST (10-0) all out of the placings, Newbury (2m, £21054, soft, Feb 14, 21 ran). RA NOVA could win this at his best and ran well when (11-9) 10l 2nd to Juven Light (11-1) in the Shweppes Gold Trophy at Newbury (2m, £8711, heavy, Mar 28, 10 ran). HUMBERSIDE LADY below form this term - best effort a (11-3) modest 27½l 3rd to Nohalmdun (11-4) at Ascot (2m, £4819, good, Dec 13, 5 ran). POSITIVE is a useful novice but (11-8) was completely outpointed by Convinced (11-0) when 23¼l 6th at Aintree (2m, £3355, soft, Apr 2, 14 ran). RECORD HARVEST is consistent and off a fair mark, judging by (10-12) a 4l 2nd to Stray Shot (10-0) at Kempton (2m, £8458, soft, Jan 24, 9 ran). Selection: RA NOVA

Guide to our in-line racecard

103 (12) 0-0432 TIMESFORM 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ..... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F-fell. P-pulled up. U-unseated rider. B-brought down. S-slipped up. R-refused). *Horse's name. Days since last outing. (B-blinkers.* V-visor. H-hood. E-Eyeshield. C-course winner. D-distance winner. CD-course and distance winner. BF-beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F-firm, good to firm, hard. G-good. S-soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in *brackets. Trainer. Age and weight.* Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.30 'MAIL ON SUNDAY' SERIES HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £4,103: 1m str) (11 runners) BBC 2

401	(7)	021003-	HANSEATIC 153 (G) (J Carrington) P Makin 9-7	W R Swinburn	85
404	(1)	221230-	PALEFACE 192 (G) (Mrs S Rudolf) L Piggott 9-2	T Ives	84
409	(8)	304210-	IRISH SAILOR 153 (S) (M Heinlmann) Pat Mitchell 8-13	J Reid	82
410	(11)	000-	YOUNG GHILLIE 167 (Mrs B Maynard) P Walwyn 8-11	B Thomson	84
414	(10)	316111-	PERFECT STRANGER 178 (D,F,G) (I Paice) P Haslam 8-6	T Williams	87
415	(4)	10-	STARTLE 234 (F) (Mrs G Brominer) B Hills 8-4	C Asmussen	● 99
416	(6)	241-	GELTSER 270 (G) (K Abdulla) R Smyth 8-4	Pat Eddery	95
417	(5)	000-	BIRWAZ 185 (F Salman) P Cole 8-2	T Quinn	85
418	(2)	1030-	DERWENT VALLEY 167 (F) (D Buchanan) R Hannon 8-0	A McGlone	78
420	(9)	000000-	ENCHANTED TIMES 154 (S) (Mrs H Corbett) C Horgan 7-12	A Proud	88
421	(3)	000011-	AKROTIRI BAY 192 (D,F) (B Bates) J Holt 7-7	N Adams	81

BETTING: 11-4 Geltser, 4-1 Perfect Stranger, 5-1 Hanseatic, 6-1 Paleface, 8-1 Birwaz, 10-1 Akrotiri Bay, Derwent Valley, 12-1 Irish Sailor, 14-1 others.

1986: MUDRIK 8-7 B Rouse (11-2) C Benstead 15 ran

FORM HANSEATIC (9-7) up to form latest start when just over a length 3rd to Paradise Coffee (8-3) at Doncaster (7f, £11187, good, Nov 8, 20 ran) with IRISH SAILOR (9-7) never in contention. PALEFACE (9-7) best judged on a 13l 3rd to Roumeli (7-7) at Pontefract (1m, £2429, good to firm, Sep 9, 15 ran). IRISH SAILOR (9-0) by far his best form an easy 4l win over Ruling Dynasty (9-0) on heavy ground at Lingfield (7f, £1797, Oct 27, 15 ran). PERFECT STRANGER (9-3) landed the hat-trick with a neck win over Timeswitch (8-10) at Warwick (1m, £1613, firm, Oct 14, 15 ran). STARTLE disappointed behind Bellotto at York and is much better judged on a (9-0) 4l win over Mummy's Luck (8-0) at Goodwood (6f, £4143, good to firm, Aug 2, 7 ran). GELTSER untried on soft ground, but latest start (8-11) a good 1½l winner over Domino Fire (9-4) at Windsor (6f, £1610, good, July 14, 11 ran). BIRWAZ (8-11) best effort a 6½l 6th to Scarlet Blade (8-11) at Newmarket (7f, £2974, good, Oct 18, 12 ran). Selection: GELTSER

4.0 CHIEVELEY HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,687: 5f) (6 runners) BBC 2

502	(6)	01009-	MAKE OR MAR 202 (CD,F) (Mrs G Smith) R Smyth 9-7	S Whitworth	● 99
504	(3)	020-	MONETARY FUND 214 (D Khan) G Lewis 9-3	A McGlone	94
506	(4)	310-	CREE'S FIGURINE 256 (D,G) (C Pearman) M Fetherston-Godley 9-3	Pat Eddery	90
507	(2)	0200-03	UNITY FARM BOY 4 (Unity Farm Holiday) P Cundell 9-3	P Cook	95
508	(5)	34040-1	ALWAYS A LADY 10 (D,S) (G Stamberg) J Holt 9-2 (7ex)	P Waldron	92
510	(1)	000-0	PROFIT A PRENDRE 16 (P Thorne) D A Wilson 8-6	W Newnes	93

BETTING: 3-1 Always A Lady, 7-2 Monetary Fund, Unity Farm Boy, 4-1 Make Or Mar, 5-1 Cree's Figurine, 20-1 Profit A Prendre.

1986: STEPHEN'S SONG 8-3 S Dawson (9-2) N Vigors 9 ran

FORM MAKE OR MAR (8-11) showed winning form over course and distance last season (£3425, good to firm, July, 18, 11 ran) beating Sunny Groat (8-11) a neck. MONETARY FUND (9-0) found soft ground no problem when 2l 2nd to Tez Shikari (9-0) at Epsom (6f, £2107, Aug 26, 6 ran). CREE'S FIGURINE well beaten by Forest Flower at Royal Ascot, previously (8-6) a 1½l winner from Infanta Maria (8-12) at Epsom (5f, £2549, good, Jun 5, 9 ran). UNITY FARM BOY (8-12) 4½l 3rd to Riverstyle (8-2) at Nottingham (5f, £1316, soft, Apr 6, 15 ran). ALWAYS A LADY (8-7) picks up a 7lb penalty for a ½l win over Fox Path (8-12) at Leicester (5f, £1730, soft, Mar 31, 11 ran) with PROFIT A PRENDRE (8-4) 1¼l 5th. Selection: MONETARY FUND

4.30 THATCHAM HANDICAP (£4,012: 2m) (9 runners)

604	(1)	011310-	ZAUBARR 253 (D,F) (A Speyer) H Beasley 4-8-7	J Reid	94
606	(5)	01222-0	PEARL RUN 14 (S) (R Squires) G Price 6-9-4	J Williams	94
609	(9)	4213/0	SANTELLA BOY 15 (S) (S Gallagher) R Holder 5-8-10	Pat Eddery	—
610	(8)	343000-	REVISIT 182 (F,S) (R Green) M Pipe 5-8-7	W R Swinburn	98
611	(2)	13000-0	OWEN'S PRIDE 4 (BF,S) (Venture Chem Prod Ltd) R Akehurst 5-8-6	A Clark	86
612	(4)	0/11000-	WIDE BOY 186 (D,S) (Lord Porchester) I Balding 5-8-6	T Ives	86
613	(7)	102221-	TIGERWOOD 165 (D,F,G,S) (Miss A Healy) R Akehurst 6-8-5	N Adams	● 99
616	(6)	00002-2	JOLI WASP 14 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs L Buckerfield) M Haynes 6-7-9	T Williams	93
617	(3)	220062-	PERFECT DOUBLE 175 (D Allen) D Elsworth 6-7-7	S Dawson	75

BETTING: 7-2 Joli Wasp, 9-2 Wide Boy, Zaubarr, 5-1 Tigerwood, 6-1 Pearl Run, 7-1 Revisit, 8-1 Owen's Pride, Perfect Double, 10-1 Santella Boy.

1986: ACCURACY 5-8-11 R Fox (5-1) G Balding 17 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per Cent
M Stoute	21	79	26.6
J Tree	15	121	12.4
B Hills	19	165	11.5
I Balding	27	237	11.4
W Hern	21	202	10.4
P Walwyn	14	141	9.9

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per Cent
S Cauthen	45	250	18.0
Pat Eddery	33	190	17.4
W Carson	37	301	12.3
W R Swinburn	15	139	10.8
W Newnes	11	109	10.1
T Quinn	9	100	9.0

3.40 EDINBURGH WOOLLEN MILL EQUORIAN NOVICE CHASE (£4,012: 3m 110yd) (5 runners) C 4

2	021141		KILDIMO 23 (F,G,S) (Lady Harris) G Balding 7-12-0	G Bradley	● 99
5	0-31323		DAN D'OR 35 (F,G) (Mrs E Robson) E Robson 9-11-11	B Storey	54
6	332421		HANDY TRICK 25 (CD,S) (J Hanson) W A Stephenson 6-11-11	R Lamb	90
12	883/004		KINGS KETCHUP 18 (Mrs J Straker) J Charlton 8-11-5	P Dennis (4)	50
17	003-002		TELEGRAPH BUSH 25 (G Renilson) G Renilson 10-11-5	K Anderson	50

BETTING: 4-6 Kildimo, 7-2 Handy Trick, 6-1 Dan d'Or, 10-1 Telegraph Bush, 12-1 Kings Ketchup.

1986: ROYAL BOWLER 7-11-6 R Earnshaw (6-1) J Charlton 6 ran

FORM KILDIMO (11-4) redeemed his tarnished reputation with a 7l win over Playschool (11-4) at the Cheltenham Festival (3m, £27740, good, Mar 18, 18 ran). DAN D'OR well beaten by Masterplan last time, previously (11-8) a 2l 2nd to Valiant Wood (11-8) at Newcastle (3m, £2101, good to soft, Dec 29, 8 ran) with HANDY TRICK (11-0) 6l 3rd. Last time out HANDY TRICK (11-3) beat TELEGRAPH BUSH (10-10) 5l at Ayr (3m 110y, £1555, soft, Mar 16, 6 ran). KINGS KETCHUP (10-13) looked as though he needed further when 12l 4th to Berryphilips Disco (11-2) at Newcastle (2m 4f, £1706, good, Mar 23, 14 ran). Selection: KILDIMO

4.10 GEORGE GRAHAM MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,490: 3m 100yd) (6 runners) C 4

2	3F4121		RANDOMLY 11 (G,S) (M Thompson) C J Bell 8-11-11 (5ex)	Mr J Osborne (7)	92
3	1F0F42		JUST FOR THE CRACK 29 (D,F,G,S) (G Wills) K Bailey 9-11-7	T Thomson Jones	94
4	4P1F03		RALLY-GO 9 (CD,F,G,S) (C Bell) Jimmy Fitzgerald 10-11-7	P Scudamore	90
8	P-P0210		SKEGBY 10 (CD,F,G,S) (O Brennan) O Brennan 13-10-7	M Brennan	● 99
9	F02F1F		BEAU N'IDOL 45 (G,S) (E Robson) E Robson 8-10-3	B Storey	97
11	430-240		MIGHTY RUN 22 (CD,F,G,S) (J Walby) W A Stephenson 9-10-0	C Grant	85

BETTING: 15-8 Randomly, 3-1 Bally-Go, 4-1 Just For The Crack, 8-1 Skegby, 8-1 Mighty Run, 12-1 Beau N'idol.

1986: STRATH LEADER 8-11-2 P Barton (11-4 fav) J Edwards 8 ran

FORM RANDOMLY (10-13) an easy 30l winner from Clonroche Stream (10-3) at Hexham (2m 4f, £2519, soft, Mar 30, 6 ran). JUST FOR THE CRACK (11-11) right up to form when a length 2nd to Woodlands Lad (10-0) at Uttoxeter (3m 2f, £2850, soft, Mar 21, 9 ran). BALLY-GO (11-4) 12l 3rd to Homeson (10-9) at Huntingdon (3m, £2843, heavy, Apr 1, 7 ran). SKEGBY made mistakes and outclassed last time, previously (10-0) a 7l winner over Covent Garden (11-7) at Nottingham (3m 4l, £3189, good, Mar 24, 8 ran). BEAU N' IDOL (10-12) a 10l winner over Kashir (11-6) on last completed outing at Sedgefield (2m 4l, £1534, good, Feb 13, 14 ran). Selection: SKEGBY

4.40 EGLINTON CUP NOVICE HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £1,100: 3m 110yd) (6 runners)

3	400030/		MANASTER 1096 (G) (Mrs G Fairbairn) G Fairbairn 10-11-9	N Hargreaves (7)	—
4	01313/P-		TACHYROS 357 (F,G,S) (J Smith) J H Smith 7-11-9	M Smith (7)	—
5	20P		TOURA LAD 32 (Sir J Barlow) R Francis 5-11-9	D Barlow (7)	70
6	FFF443		WATER WAGTAIL 18 (J Greenall) W A Stephenson 6-11-8	J Greenall	● 99
8	08F0P-0		YALESKARI 176 (Miss J Eaton) Miss J Eaton 8-11-9	Miss L Eaton (7)	—
9	24U/424		LILLIES BRIG 18 (BF) (C Alexander) C Alexander 9-11-4	D Mactaggart (7)	98

BETTING: Evens Lillies Brig, 11-4 Water Wagtail, 4-1 Tachyros, 6-1 Toura Lad, 12-1 others.

1986: OLIVE PRESS 9-11-9 Mr D Mactaggart (Evens fav) A Mactaggart 12 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per Cent
Jimmy Fitzgerald	9	32	28.1
M H Easterby	23	104	22.1
G Richards	55	295	19.3
W A Stephenson	31	179	17.3
M Naughton	12	116	10.3
Only qualifiers			

JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per Cent
R Lamb	29	141	20.6
P Tuck	27	137	19.7
N Doughty	32	164	19.5
G Bradley	11	75	14.7
C Grant	25	195	12.8
Only qualifiers			

Guineas support for Miesque

Ladbrokes yesterday reported heavy support for French filly Miesque, now the favourite for the 1,000 Guineas. Latest prices: 6-1 Miesque, 7-1 Forest Flower, 9-1 Minstrella, 11-1 others.

The same firm report that Stearsby has been backed down from 6-1 to 9-2 second favourite for Saturday's Scottish Grand National at Ayr. Latest prices: 4-1 Hardy lad, 9-2 Stearsby, 5-1 Jimbrook, 8-1 others.

Eddery has lucky escape after fall

Champion jockey Pat Eddery had a lucky escape from serious injury when he took a crashing fall in Brighton's Ovingdean Handicap yesterday. Eddery, riding Brave And Bold for Newmarket trainer Neville Callaghan, was unseated at the top of the hill and fell under the hooves of another horse.

He was brought back in an ambulance after lying on the track for a time, but was able to walk unaided to the medical room, where nothing more than severe bruising was diagnosed.

Eddery said after being examined by Jockey Club Chief Medical Officer Dr Michael Allen: "I'm alright except for a large bruise on my bottom. The accident happened when a young boy rider took his horse right across me. I was knocked off my horse and kicked by an oncoming runner."

Eddery, who is expected to be fit to ride today, is also due to partner the 2,000 Guineas second favourite Bellotto in tomorrow's Greenham Stakes at Newbury. He stood down for his final mount of the day, Chummy's Girl, in the Southwick Maiden Stakes, and was replaced by Willie Carson.

Bel Byou is one to note for Easter punters at Warwick. After the colt won the Seven Dials Graduation Stakes at Brighton yesterday, his Whatcombe trainer Paul Cole said: "He'll go for another six-furlong race at Warwick over Easter, and I would expect him to improve a lot after this."

Cole went on to complete a treble when My Noble Lord got the better of Newmarket challengers Uniformity and King Balladeer in the Brighton Festival Handicap and Laabas won the second division of the Pyecombe Apprentice Stakes.

GRA requests satellite delay

The planned launch of live television greyhound racing by satellite to Britain's betting offices on May 5 should be shelved, pending further negotiations with the greyhound authorities, says Lord Newall, chairman of the British Greyhound Racing Board.

He has written to the director general of Fair Trading, Sir Gordon Borrie, seeking his help in preventing Satellite Information Services from starting their television service from bookmaker-run tracks until an agreement has been concluded with the sport.

Lord Newall advised Sir Gordon: "I feel it is against the public interest for SIS to commence televising of greyhound racing in early May."

Water Wagtail on the upgrade

Water Wagtail, who has been gradually improving this term, should gain his first hunter chase victory, in the Eglinton Cup at Ayr today (Brian Beel writes).

The Arthur Stephenson trained six-year-old was a creditable third behind Hummelmoor at Newcastle last month and should have too much pace for Lillie's Brig.

POINT-TO-POINT RESULTS: East Devon (Chard): Hunt: 1, Culm Port; 2, Alice Woodlark; 3, Culmleigh Padre. Open: 1, Pict Lane; 2, Bamrock Prince; 3, Arish Mel. Adjacent: 1, Holcombe Pet; 2, O'er The Border; 3, Sandspride. Ladies: 1, King Burg; 2, Grey Scar; 3, Pucka Fella. Restricted: 1, Pardlyza; 2, Cill Dara Mist; 3, Sandy Lays. Maidens: 1,

RUGBY UNION: RECALL FOR PLAYERS DISCIPLINED AFTER CARDIFF FRACAS

Halliday has to turn down England World Cup place

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

All four players suspended by the Rugby Football Union after the Wales – England international in March will go to Australia next month for the inaugural World Cup. When England's party was announced yesterday, the forwards, Gareth Chilcott, Graham Dawe and Wade Dooley, and the scrum half, Richard Hill, were recalled but Simon Halliday, the Bath centre, has been forced by the exigencies of his job to turn down a place.

Michael Harrison, the Wakefield wing, will captain the party which is much as predicted, save that Dawe may be regarded as fortunate to get in ahead of as good a technician as Alan Simmons (Wasps). Halliday's sad absence leaves a gap which will be filled over the next 48 hours; possibly after the Thorn EMI county championship final at Twickenham tomorrow when the likes of Rob Lozowski and Huw Davies appear for Middlesex and John Buckton for Yorkshire.

All but three of the party were named in the national squad announced last June which reflects an admirable loyalty on the part of the selectors and a limited number of good individual performances during the course of the present season. One of those individuals who has sprung from the ranks is Jon Webb, the Bristol full back, while his club colleague Richard Harding – who was not named as one of the top three scrum halves 10 months ago – now travels as first choice in his position.

But no place has been found for Stuart Barnes, the Bath stand-off half, who withdrew from the squad before the game against Wales. Barnes quite evidently burned his boats by so doing and even his statement last weekend, suggesting that his motives had been misunderstood and that he was prepared to make himself "unconditionally" available, has not been enough.

Ironically, had Barnes been just a little more patient there can be little doubt that he, rather than Peter Williams, would have been elevated instead of Rob Andrew for the Calcutta Cup match. Williams might then have been today's unlucky man; as it is he returns to Australia for the second summer in succession, as does Andrew. Both men played club rugby in and around Sydney last year.

After Saturday's win over Scotland, Marcus Rose referred to the four suspended players and expressed the hope that they, too, would be remembered in the hour of victory. They have worked as hard as anyone during the many squad sessions this season and there is no doubt that a degree of mutual loyalty has grown among those in and nearest to the national side.

Chilcott remains among the best scrummagers in the country and his rotund figure disguises more rugby ability than is immediately discernible. Likewise Dooley is remarkably athletic for a man of his size, and every inch will be needed against the likely Australian pairing of Cutler and Campbell in England's first match, in Sydney on May 23.

He has served his punishment for an offence which was out of character. Chilcott was hard done by in being suspended in the first place. Dawe, whose commendable zeal saw him elevated to the Bath first XV, thence to England in just over a year, let himself down in three successive matches by his over-physical play.

Hill's recall will be the silver lining to the cloud which has recently overhung his career. This tournament is going to be a test of physical endurance as much as anything else and Hill's fitness and durability will be an undoubted asset.

The selectors had left a place open for Halliday until the weekend, in the hope that his business affairs would permit him to travel. But Halliday, aged 26 and a partner in a Bath firm of stockbrokers, said yesterday: "Every avenue has been explored but I simply cannot find a way of taking the time off now."

With Jamie Salmon and Kevin Simms as the other two centres the selectors must now decide between a big bustling player such as Lozowski (Wasps), Fran Clough (Orrell), the experienced Paul Dodge (Leicester), the inexperienced but promising Will Carling (Harlequins) or perhaps a player such as Davies (Wasps) who has had international experience at stand-off half, centre and full back.

England squad

Backs: Full backs: W M H Rose (Harlequins), J Webb (Bristol). Wings: M E Harrison (Wakefield, captain), R Underwood (Leicester), M D Bailey (Wasps). Centres: J L B Salmon (Harlequins), K G Simms (Wasps), A N Other. Stand-off halves: P N Williams (Orrell), C R Andrew (Wasps). Scrum halves: R M Harding (Bristol), R J Hill (Bath). Forwards: Props: P A G Rendall (Wasps), G J Chilcott (Bath), G S Pearce (Northampton), J A Probyn (Wasps). Hookers: B C Moore (Nottingham), R G R Dawe (Bath). Locks: S Bainbridge (Fylde), W A Dooley (Fylde), N C Redman (Bath). Flankers: J P Hall (Bath), G W Rees (Nottingham), P J Winterbottom (Headingley). No. 8s: D Richards (Leicester), D Egerton (Bath). Manager: M P Weston. Coach: M J Green. Assistant coach: D Seabrook. Conditioning coach: T McNab. Physiotherapist: K Murphy. Doctor: B Gilfeather.

TENNIS



Success: A clenched fist reaction from McEnroe to the point which won him the first set

McEnroe shows two sides

From Richard Evans
Dallas

With everyone crying poverty in Texas these days, the sporting public wants value for a diminishing dollar and, with Ivan Lendl and Boris Becker absent, there seemed go be some doubt as to whether this year's World Championship Tennis (WCT) finals would provide it.

Enter John McEnroe. After nearly three hours of the best and almost the worst of the man whose four WCT titles and eight appearances in Dallas are both records for the event, the 9,000 spectators went home happy, even those who had spent $30 (about £19) a seat.

In beating Yannick Noah 7-6, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, McEnroe proved he can still hit the ball like a genius while behaving like some demented fool. As usual he was right about a lot of the bad line calls but in the third set emotions started running so high that the two players, who are perfectly good friends, started arguing with each other.

"We all had a talk about it afterwards and it's okay" Noah said. "I like to have fun during a match but John gets very intense and that's just the way he is. I am not going to judge someone I like and respect."

McEnroe was typically unrepentant about raising the temperature of the match. "Emotion is the key to sports," he said adamantly, "especially in a one on one sport like tennis. At this level it all comes down to mental desire and being able to guts it out."

Noah not only offered his usual repertoire of acrobatics but some mime and mimickry too, blinking in time with a malfunctioning electric scoreboard. The talented Frenchman may yet become the game's Marcel Marceau while McEnroe seems destined to remain its Mozart.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Borough may die

By Keith Macklin

The second division club, Blackpool Borough, are unlikely to survive beyond the end of the season. Even if the players and other club assets remain, a move may be necessary to another town and another name.

Talks have been taking place between Borough officials and a Stockport consortium headed by the businessman, Mike Marsland. In addition, there have been exploratory talks with Wigan Athletic football club regarding the possibility of ground-sharing at Springfield Park.

Blackpool's plight has been caused by the fact that the local council refused to give them a grant of £65,000 to pay for essential repairs to the Princess Street ground, repairs insisted upon by the local authority under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act.

Borough have had to play their recent home games at Blackpool's football ground at Bloomfield Road, which has lost them valuable income.

● Runcorn Highfield announced yesterday that the former Great Britain forward, Bill Ashurst, is to be their new coach. He succeeds Frank Wilson who was dismissed last November

HOCKEY

Sponsorship boost

The Great Britain men's hockey team left by air for Malasia yesterday to play in an international tournament at Ipoh heartened by the news that Minet Holdings, the international insurance brokers, had announced a sponsorship package of £50,000 as part of the team's preparation for the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul (Sydney Friskin writes).

A cheque was presented yesterday in London to Tim Morrison, the president of the Great Britain Hockey Board, and with £83,000 already committed to individual awards through the Minet Awards for Olympic Excellence scheme, it means that British mens Olympic hockey will now benefit to the tune of £133,000 in sponsorship from Minet. It will enable Great Britain to expand their training squad to 35 players.

Britain on knife-edge

Great Britain's women look as though they will be biting their nails until the last match tomorrow between The Netherlands and South Korea to see whether they will qualify for the Olympic Games in Seoul next year (Joyce Whitehead writes).

Great Britain and The Netherlands head the table with five points in The Scotsman six-nation tournament at Meadowbank, but have only scored two goals in three matches to the Dutch's nine. South Korea and the United States are also in the hunt with four points apiece and Great Britain can afford no slips against struggling Ireland and the Americans before the crucial final match.

● The Home Countries under-18 tournament starts today at Inverclyde Sports Centre in Largs.

ENGLAND UNDER-18: M Crowe, J Shaw, C Pluckrose, S Brenfield, J Smith, (captain), H Thornalley (all East), C Cook, L Duckworth, F Lee, J Wood, (all North), J Mould, T White, (both Midlands), R Dobbie, R Pilkington, P Scott, K Spencer (all West).

WALES UNDER-18: G Wood, J Hicks, (captain), S Pongrave, C Peters, (all N Wales), L James, N Frazer, C Macey, J Collins, J Smith, E Patterson, C Morgan, E James, C Evans (all South Wales), S Hetenyi, C Davies, G Spencer (all West Wales).

SQUASH RACKETS

Australian floaters a threat at Wembley

By Colin McQuillan

Considering that the seedings for the Hi-Tec British Open championships suggested finals involving New Zealand, against England in the women's competition, and against Pakistan in the case of the men, the third round starting today at Wembley Conference Centre is heavily mined by notable Australians.

Behind Susan Devoy, New Zealand's world champion, and Lisa Opie, the British champion, no less than seven of the last 16 women, in their most significant gathering of the season, are from Australia.

Only four of the last 16 men are Australian, but each of them is capable of disturbing the plan for a final next Tuesday between Ross Norman, New Zealand's other world champion, and Jahangir Khan, the world No. 1, who is seeking his sixth successive title at Wembley.

England are still strong in both championships. Lucy Soutter, Martine Le Moignan, Suzanne Burgess, Alison Cumings and Angela Smith all have excellent chances of joining Miss Opie in Saturday's quarter-finals.

Among the men there is certain to be one British quarter-finalist for Bryan Beeson, the British champion, and Philip Kenyon, his immediate predecessor, play each other in the third round. But Gawain Briars must quell the rising talent of Jansher Khan and Geoff Williams faces Norman in a replay of the Economist International final, conclusively won by the New Zealander.

Perhaps most home interest is vested in Neil Harvey, aged 28, who is returning from an extended absence caused by a groin injury to challenge for a world ranking. He meets Stuart Davenport, the world No. 2, from New Zealand, and his earlier performances suggest he might cause an upset.

Australians lurk at every major crossroads, however. Such names as Vicki Cardwell and Liz Irving are left among the women and Tristan Nancarrow, Chris Robertson, Rodney Martin and the Brighton-based Chris Dittmar survive in the men's competition.

ATHLETICS

Edinburgh set for top event

One of Britain's biggest athletics meetings may be moved from Crystal Palace to Meadowbank next year to protect its élite status. David Bedford, chairman of the International Athletes' Club (IAC), has had discussions with Edinburgh District Council about hosting the club's Grand Prix event.

Bedford is also likely to talk to officials in Birmingham because of an embarrassment of riches at the London track, which currently stages both the IAC and Talbot Games qualifiers for the Grand Prix.

In 1988 Crystal Palace is due to put on the Grand Prix final, which means that one of the qualifiers will have to go elsewhere. Bedford said: "We might be forced out of London by the International Amateur Athletic Association (IAAF)."

Meadowbank staged last summer's Commonwealth Games athletics events but has not had a major individual international meeting since trouble flared over Zola Budd's appearance there.

The meeting was blacked out by television because of the local council's anti-apartheid banners and a protestor tried to halt Miss Budd in mid-race.

Pressures of Welsh revolution

By Gerald Davies

Tomorrow the Welsh Schools (18 Group) play England at Ebbw Vale in a famous fixture which has helped spawn many a future senior international player. For the most part, though, it will simply have provided the platform for the boy to achieve his immediate schooldays ambition, and no more.

The laurel wreath, or in this case the red or white tasselled cap, will crown for him the busy rugby year, in which fixtures have been fulfilled, and the teachers and boys have trained and travelled as part of the wholeness of the school year. The international cap would be a lovely bonus for someone.

But is this not the age of educational change, and will not tomorrow's fixture soon be thought of as a thing of the past?

Coming along on the breeze is talk of a new philosophy in physical education, which appears to discourage competitiveness and questions the ethos of team spirit within the school.

There is talk of changing the school year to include four terms. And there are enough hints flying around to suggest that the school day should change and follow what is called the "continental" pattern, starting and ending early.

The likely upshot of all this remains uncertain, but another trend, already in train, is causing the rugby authorities in Wales to rethink their strategy for developing rugby in the post-16 age group.

The development of the tertiary system is proceeding apace: two colleges in 1982 and six now, in which those in full-time education are integrated with those in vocational and industrial training. Patterns of education differ and distinctions are fast becoming blurred.

There is a dramatic change ahead in Welsh rugby where, unlike many other sports, two unions control those within this age range. The Schools Union are in charge of those in full-time education, the Youth Union look after the interests of those who have left school at 16.

In the old secondary system, there may have been two or three schools in any one town which, come the comprehensive system, were incorporated into one school; there are now about 150 comprehensives in the whole of Wales.

In the wake of this change there comes another, which will be completed a few years hence: all 16 to 19-year-old students will then pursue their education at a tertiary college serving an area, not just a town; there will ultimately be only 40 in the whole of Wales, severely pruning the number of rugby teams.

This raises all sorts of questions. While some of these colleges will play rugby, that is not to say that all of them will. Whether they do so will depend largely on the sympathies of the principal.

And even if he is a supporter, how certain is he that the students will want to represent his college? The student may no longer identify himself as he once did as a pupil in the traditional classroom. From now on he will be rubbing shoulders with others who are not so constrained by school formalities.

Conflicts of identity will arise, as will divided loyalties. The pupil may have to travel some distance to his college, whereas his club, who will be able to cater for his needs, will be on his doorstep. The connection with the college can be very tenuous: the PE master may persuade, the headmaster may insist – but the pupil and parent may think otherwise.

Where will the responsibilities of the schools and youth unions lie in this changing scene? Catering as they have done in the past for the different opportunities open to the post-16-year-olds, the unions have co-existed more or less harmoniously.

But with future distinctions less clear cut, and with each union wanting to safeguard its own interests, it will take a leap, not of imagination, but of goodwill and intention, to make the revolutionary change which is now required.

They will have to relinquish their traditional roles, and should be merged to cater for all rugby between 16 and 19 years of age, and become part of a subcommittee of the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) which ultimately will cater for all under-19 rugby. As an indication of what the future might hold, a touring party of mixed representatives of youth and school will go to play in New Zealand in August.

More and more it would seem that the clubs will have to take on the roles which have been traditionally that of the school. And since the changes are occurring in the educational system, it would appear that it is the influence of the teacher and of the school that will be eroded in future.

Whilst the administrative structure will change in the face of external pressure, the difficulty arises as to how to ensure the huge pool of teaching talent, who have always interpreted their role in rugby slightly differently to that of the club coach, is to be preserved.

It is only by catering correctly to the needs of the young that the WRU have any chance of securing a healthy rugby future in Wales.

The 15-man game is flourishing

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

The 31 participants in the 3-3 draw between England and Scotland, in their 18-Group schools match at Hartlepool this week, deserved medals for their efforts in diabolical conditions, which demonstrated the spirit but not the skills of 15-man schools rugby at its best.

Perhaps England's game tomorrow, against Wales at Ebbw Vale, sponsored by Esso, will be luckier with the weather. Wales have the advantage of a good win over Scotland at Murrayfield in January (22-6), but have not beaten England for three years. They have made one change since the Scottish match, introducing Higgs (Neath College) on the wing.

England's 16 Group side had a 70-4 win over Portugal at Basildon on Wednesday evening. Adebayo (Kelly College) scored four tries from the left wing before going off with a damaged ankle. His replacement, Hockey (Lancaster RGS), scored two, as did Ingram (St Joseph's, Widnes) and Richardson (King's, Worcester) in a total of 13 tries.

It is good to hear of another comprehensive whose rugby is flourishing. The Bishop of Hereford's Bluecoat School, an 11 to 16 establishment, has had another magnificent season, scoring 1,003 points and conceding only 120. They won 17 matches and lost only to Christ's, Brecon (12-36), QEH Bristol (6-14), and Shrewsbury (8-9).

Tiffin School under-16 VII won the QES Barnet Sevens, beating Eltham 18-0 in the final, and the Teddington under-16 sevens, but lost narrowly (16-18) to Epsom in the final of the Esher invitation floodlit tournament, before beating Nottingham HS (12-10) in the final of the Oxford Sevens.

Port Regis, from Shaftesbury in Dorset, believe they are the first English preparatory school to make the trans-Atlantic flight to Vancouver, to play five matches, starting tomorrow.

Loretto's ambitious tour of the Orient has produced some good results. They beat Hong Kong International Schools 18-3, and the Hong Kong President's XV 14-0.

England pair out

Dean Richards and Rory Underwood, named in England's World Cup squad, will miss Leicester's match with Bristol tomorrow. Richards is nursing a leg injury while Underwood is playing for Yorkshire in the Thorn-EMI County Championship final at Twickenham.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Barnet are prepared for the final push

By Paul Newman

As the GM Vauxhall Conference season enters its final and decisive phase, the managers of the two clubs challenging for the championship are agreed: the race for the title and automatic promotion to the fourth division is far from over.

It seemed that a turning point had been reached last Saturday, when Scarborough, the leaders, extended their advantage over Barnet to seven points. While the Yorkshire side were taking their unbeaten league run to 20 matches with an emphatic 3-0 victory away to Bath City, their closest challengers were losing 2-1 at home to lowly Kettering Town. Barnet have now dropped 12 points in six matches.

On Tuesday, however, Barnet rebounded with a resounding 3-0 win away to Stafford Rangers, as John Margerrison and Kevin Millett, two of their most experienced players, returned successfully after injury. Barnet are now four points behind Scarborough, but have a substantially superior goal difference. Both teams have five games to play.

Barry Fry, the Barnet manager, said: "Ever since the turn of the year I've said that the title won't be decided until after Easter and I stick by that. In the space of a week over Easter, Scarborough have three difficult games, away to Kidderminster and Sutton United and at home to Runcorn. Every team has to have a dodgy spell at some stage and I can't believe Scarborough will go all season without one. As far as we're concerned, we must win all our games to have any sort of chance."

Neil Warnock, the Scarborough manager, said: "I expect Barnet to win all their remaining games, so that leaves us having to win four out of five. It's far from over yet, but I'm confident we can do it. Having completely rebuilt the side last summer I've always felt that it would be March or April before we started playing really well. We've been getting better and the last two wins, away to Dagenham and Bath, were superb. The team are enjoying playing so much that they're not feeling any pressure."

With Barnet not playing tomorrow Scarborough are keen to re-establish their seven point advantage by winning at home to Welling United, a match likely to attract a crowd of more than 2,000. If they take three points, the pressure will be back on Barnet to beat Bath on Monday.

Barnet's programme then appears considerably easier than Scarborough's in that all four of their matches – three of them at home – are against teams from the bottom half of the table.

GM Conference table

(Including Wednesday April 8)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scarborough	37	23	10	4	66	30	79
Barnet	37	22	9	6	80	36	75
Maidstone	36	19	7	10	61	39	64

REMAINING FIXTURES: Scarborough. Tomorrow: Welling (h). April 18: Kidderminster (a); April 20: Runcorn (h); April 25: Sutton (a); May 2: Weymouth (h). Barnet: April 13: Bath (a); April 18: Gateshead (h); April 20: Maidstone (a); April 25: Stafford (h). May 2: Dagenham (h).

● The decision by General Motors to review their involvement in football sponsorship will not affect the Conference. A Conference spokesman said yesterday: "General Motors have told us they are delighted with their arrangement with us. The sponsorship runs out at the end of next season, when the company have an option for another year, and their is no question of their pulling out before then."

SNOOKER

Television agrees £1.5m deal

By Sydney Friskin

ITV announced yesterday a new five-year agreement worth £1.5 million in television rights with the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) to cover four tournaments a season. This amount is more than double the previous package for the same period.

John Bromley, the chairman of ITV Sport, said at the Press conference in London yesterday that for the first time next season there would be two-table coverage of three of the four events contracted with ITV. The exception would be the Hofmeister World Doubles Championship at Northampton.

The incentive for 130 hours of snooker coverage for next season had been provided by the viewing figures of 15.2 million for the Mercantile Credit Classic final between Steve Davis and Jimmy White. Mr Bromley added that snooker was among the top five sports now covered by ITV.

Rex Williams, the chairman of the WPBSA, said: "We are happy to have the future of the game on ITV secure to the 1990s." He also noted the expansion of the game through ITV coverage to Europe.

Snooker continues to prove itself one of the most popular sports on television, and ITV believe that they are not investing £1.5 million in a bubble that is about to burst.

ITV AND CHANNEL 4 SCHEDULE (1987-88): Fidelity International: Sept 25-Oct 4 (Trentham Gardens, Stoke-on-Trent). Hofmeister World Doubles Championship: Dec 4-13 (Derngate, Northampton). Mercantile Credit Classic: Jan 1-10 (Norbreck Castle, Blackpool). Dulux British Open Tournament: Feb 26-Mar 6 (Assembly Rooms, Derby).

SHOW JUMPING

Whitaker sails to victory

From Jenny MacArthur, Paris

Thanks to modern technology the Volvo World Cup meeting went ahead as scheduled yesterday with an afternoon warm up class won in fine style by John Whitaker of Britain on Next San Salvador.

The waterlogged course which had prompted the riders to pull out from Wednesday's warm-up classes was dried out overnight after the organizers discovered, rather late in the day, an underfloor heating system in the Palais Omnisport de Paris-Bercy where the final is taking place.

There were no complaints from the riders after jumping yesterday. The joint European favourites in the competition Whitaker and Paul Schockemöhle of West Germany – the latter had acted as spokesman for the riders – both said the going was good. Although Whitaker's win yesterday was an auspicious start to the four day meeting it was only incidental to the proceedings because Whitaker will ride his top horse, Next Milton, in all three legs of the final.

For some of the other British riders the choice of horse was more difficult. Malcolm Pyrah has "taken a gamble" and put his second horse, Towerlands Diamond Seeker, into the first leg – a speed class in which, on past experience, it is vital to finish in the top 10 if a rider is to remain in contention for the Cup. Towerlands Anglezarke, Pyrah's top horse gets stale if jumped repeatedly so Pyrah is saving him for tonight's class and for Sunday's taxing final competition.

Nick Skelton will decide today whether to go on riding the nine-year old Raffles Airborne in the final – he went well yesterday – or whether to switch to J Nick for the bigger classes. Michael Whitaker, John's younger brother will ride Warren Point tonight – he is well suited to the large arena here and the big courses.

Peter Charles, who is looking frail after spending three days in hospital having some poison drawn out of his right leg, will rely solely on April Sun for all parts of the final. This is the last time he will ride the nine-year old gelding, who, after a court ruling, has to be returned to his owner, Cecil Williams, next week.

The North American riders who have won the world cup six times in its nine-year history indicated that they will be as difficult to beat as ever when five of them, including the defending champion, Leslie Burr-Lenehan with Siriska, finished in the top 10.

RESULTS: World Cup Preparation Class: 1, Next San Salvador (J Whitaker, GB) 0 in 46.11 sec; 2, Waldera (H Simon, Austria) 0 in 48.04; 3, Gusty Monroe (R Jenkins, US) 0 in 48.88.

VOLLEYBALL

Depleted England look to future

By a Special Correspondent

England take the first tentative steps towards establishing a reputation in Western European volleyball next week. Both of England's senior national teams will look towards their respective West European championships, which begin on Monday, to give them a pointer to their future status in the game.

England's senior men, under new coach Sava Medonos, travel to Switzerland with five uncapped players in their a 12 strong squad – a squad cruelly depleted by injury.

Medonos will look for encouraging signs for the future from his makeshift squad. The former Czechoslovakian international said yesterday: "Volleyball stagnated a bit in this country as there was little co-operation with the schools. Players had been in the national team for years without any pressure from younger players coming through. That is all changing now and there's a blend of youth and experience in this squad."

England's best placing in the West European event was tenth in Majorca in 1984 and they have been drawn in the same opening section in Basle next week with holders West Germany, Sweden and Norway. A win over Norway (Medonos is a former Norwegian national coach) is a must if England are to finish above last year's twelth 12th placing.

ENGLAND: Men: D Speers, R Anderson, G Barker (all Dragonara Leeds), D King, N McKenzie (both Capital City), A Challenger, M Hodges (both Speedwell), R Dobell (Newcastle, Staffordshire), S Chappell (Spark), U Ashman (Redwood Lodge), M Percival (Radio Trent), P Newton (Liverpool City).

ENGLAND: Women: K Payne, D Sedgewick, S Prince, J Smith (all Sale), D Frost, K Gosling (both Ashcombe), W Gate, P Speers (both Leeds), Y Moon (Bradford), N Fowler (Skore Coeur), S Lyster (Spark), N Tinsley (Atlas Wessex).

BOWLS

Preston triple again in Prudential final

By Gordon Allan

The Preston club of Brighton have reached the triples final of the Prudential English indoor championships at Hartlepool for the second consecutive year, though with different players. Michael Harris, David Williams and Paul Lewis yesterday beat Isis – Garry Harrington, Bob Killick and Gary's father, Eric – 27-13.

Preston lost the 1986 final. Lewis (lead) Williams (No. 2) and Harris (skip) look good enough to go one better, starting with Lewis, who out-bowled Eric Harrington. Isis led 9-2 but then dropped two fours and a five in four ends.

A backlog of matches seems to be developing because of the involvement of some players in more than one event and there are dark hints about the championships finishing on Sunday morning instead of tomorrow afternoon.

The first round of the pairs was completed with Wynne Richards and Chris Yelland (Cambridge Park) and Tony Allcock and Mike Jordan (Cotswold) joining other favourites such as David Bryant and David Rhys-Jones (Clevedon) at the next stage.

RESULTS: Fours: Final: Cambridge Park (W Richards) 24, Twickenham (D Boone) 19. Triples: Quarter-finals: Isis, Oxford 18, Thamesdown, Swindon 12; Preston, Brighton 19, Cyphers, Beckenham 6; Stanley 17, East Dorset 11; Bowfers, Manchester 20, Towerlands, Braintree 7. Pairs: First round: Hull 20, Leicester 24; Desborough 14, Bristol 25; Longmeadow 26, Exonia Exeter 17; Isis Oxford 19, Plymouth CS 18; Victory Portsmouth 10, Stanley 29; North Walsham 16, Cyphers Beckenham 20; Falcon Chelmsford 11, Huntingdon 22; Lewisham 16, Clevedon 17; Cambridge Park 20, Wey Valley Guildford 15; Darlington 16, Ely 22; Nottingham 19, Risbygate Bury St Edmonds 13; Gallow Felgreham 22, Herts Watford 18; Felsea Hastings 18, Paddington 22; British Cellophane Bridgewater 13, Newcastle 14; Barking 11, Lincoln 22; Folkestone 12, Cotswold Stroud 29.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

7.30 unless stated

Today League

Fourth division

Colchester v Burnley

IRISH LEAGUE TNT CUP (6.15): Bangor v Glentoran; Carrick v Ballymena; Portadown v Glenavon.

ESSO SCHOOLS INTERNATIONAL: Wales v Scotland (at Bridgend, 3.0).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Junior men: England v Scotland (at Stroud, 3.0).

BOWLS: Prudential English men's indoor championships (at Hartlepool).

EQUESTRIANISM: Cancelled: Whitbread Championships (Badminton, Avon).

GOLF: Jersey Open (at La Moye); Halford Hewitt (at Royal Cinque Ports and Royal St George's).

HOCKEY: Women's pre-Olympic tournament (at Edinburgh); Home Countries schoolgirls tournament (at Dundee).

MODERN PENTATHLON: International (at Aldershot).

SKIING: Scottish Open (at Cairngorm).

SNOOKER: Hastings amateur festival (at Combe Haven holiday centre).

SPEEDWAY: World championships: Qualifying round (at Peterborough). Challenge: Edinburgh v Berwick (7.15).

SQUASH RACKETS: Hi-Tec British open championships (at Wembley Conference Centre); John Smith's Durham open championship (6.30).

TENNIS: National Ratings tournament (at Sheffield, 6.0).

WOMEN'S HOCKEY: Midlands club tournament (at Coventry School, 6.30).

SPORT ON TV

100 GREAT SPORTING MOMENTS: Robin Cousins at the 1980 Winter Olympic Games. BBC2: 2.02-2.15pm.

RACING: 2.30, 3.0, 3.30 and 4.0 races from Newbury. BBC2: 2.15pm, 2.35, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races from Ayr. C4: 2.30pm.

SNOOKER: Taylor Made. BBC1: 5.35pm.

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FOOTBALL

Police organize huge security operation to segregate Cup fans

By Ian Ross

One of the biggest security operations ever mounted at a British sporting event will take place in South Yorkshire on Sunday morning.

Sheffield will be ringed by a police cordon as strong as its steel as two sets of supporters with quite differing reputations gather at Hillsborough to watch Leeds United and Coventry City contest a place in next month's FA Cup Final.

Involving hundreds of officers from as many as four forces stretching from West Yorkshire to the West Midlands, the comprehensive plan, organized from the headquarters of the Sheffield North division which stands just a stone's throw away from the famous stadium, is designed to take the heat out of a potentially explosive situation.

Mindful of the appalling catalogue of violent acts perpetrated by the followers of Leeds over the past decade, the police have left absolutely nothing to chance.

Within hours of the semi-final draw being made their request for the tie to be put back to Sunday with a beat-the-alcohol kick-off time of 12.15 p.m. had been granted. Senior officers have worked tirelessly over the past three weeks to cover every conceivable eventuality.

The unenviable task of overseeing the preparations fell to Chief Superintendent Brian Mole, divisional commander of Sheffield North, and a man who, despite having 13 years experience in dealing with top level football matches, admits he prefers boxing and hockey.

Chief Superintendent Mole sees Sunday's match as a challenge not only for his own men but also for the supporters. "This is the perfect opportunity for the fans to show that football can take place without aggression," he said. "Everyone is aware of the Leeds' fans reputation but they now have the stage to show that they are football lovers first and foremost. It will be terribly sad if the hooligan element surfaces to spoil the day."

With 27,300 Coventry supporters and 22,000 from Leeds expected to start arriving in the city at least two hours before kick-off, the day will start early for the police.

Patrols will monitor their departure and search all coaches en route to ensure the stringent no-alcohol regulations are adhered to. Leeds fans will be taken off the M1 at the Tankersley intersection three miles north of Sheffield and Coventry fans will be similarly diverted at the Tinsley intersection to the south of the city.

Cars and coaches will then be funnelled into specially segregated parking areas and the fans escorted to the relevant sections of the ground.

The non-operative Wadsley Bridge Station will be opened to cater for Leeds supporters travelling by rail while the Coventry contingent will arrive at the Midland Station. "Total and complete segregation has been our main aim. It is a big operation but we have had to deal with big games in the past" said Chief Superintendent Mole.

"I firmly believe that most supporters are good by nature while acknowledging that there will always be an element hell bent on causing trouble. Football has proved to be a good vehicle for those people," he added.

Wednesday declined to take their allocation of 10,000 tickets for fear of them falling into the wrong hands. It was for the same reason that Coventry are returning 500 tickets, having let their allocation go to season ticket holders, executive club members and anyone able to produce ticket stubs as proof of their support.

The decision to give Coventry a higher percentage of the tickets was defended by the Wednesday secretary, Graham Mackrell. "Because the City fans will be arriving from the south they were given the Kop which holds 21,000," he said. "Both clubs have been given an allocation higher than their average home attendances this year."

Allen's chance to erase the past

By Stuart Jones
Football Correspondent

FA CUP

For five years a horror film has been projected persistently across the screen of Clive Allen's conscience. It features an afternoon at Wembley during which he was expected to play a leading role. But his performance, which lasted for little more than 45 minutes, was considered less than a bit part. Allen was the leader of the Queen's Park Ranger's attack at the time and the memory of his failure in the 1982 Cup final has troubled him ever since. He feared that the painful pictures were destined to be printed indelibly in his mind for the rest of his career.

With a large proportion of his family sitting amid the audience, he had the misfortune to twist and ankle in the opening minutes. He limped on, was forced to withdraw shortly after the interval and did not recover in time to be considered for the replay five days later.

But fate may be about to usher him back to the same stage in the same competition. If he is allowed to return to the scene of his recurring nightmare, he will be wearing the colours of Tottenham Hotspur, the team he happened to be competing against five years ago. Tottenham are expected to beat Watford at Villa Park tomorrow but they were in an even more favourable position in the semi-final of the Littlewoods Cup before Arsenal belatedly shut the other door to Wembley in their faces. No one contributed more to keeping it open than Allen.

He set a new record in the competition by claiming a dozen goals and he is now on the verge of becoming the club's highest individual scorer in all competitions in a season. Although a natural predator, he spends hours sharpening his killer instinct in practicing it on the training pitch.

David Pleat, his manager, points out that Allen concentrates on more than the accuracy of his shooting. The weight of his body must also be finely balanced if he is consistently to convert the half chances that come his way and Tottenham's system has been designed to supply him with plentiful ammunition.

Pleat recognized that Allen revels in his work as a lone forward. It suits his single-minded nature. He can clearly see his own path into the danger area and he can sense where openings might appear. His vision of potential possibilities for his colleagues is, by comparison, greatly impaired.

Tottenham have benefitted from his blinkered awareness and his opportunism which, statistically, is sharper even than that of Jimmy Greaves. He scored his 44 goals 24 seasons ago in a total of 48 fixtures. Allen has reached the same mark in 45 appearances, including one as a substitute.

His promise was recognized initially by Bobby Robson three years ago and Allen could have made the most dramatic of international entrances. He might have finished his debut against Uruguay in Montevideo with five goals. He missed each opportunity, and others later on the South American tour, and was subsequently omitted.

Now restored as a member of Robson's squad as the understudy for Lineker, he is likely to return as England's centre forward next month. Because of club commitments at the end of Barcelona's elongated season, Lineker will not be available for the match against Scotland on May 23. Allen will have noted that it is to be staged not at Wembley but at Hampden Park.

In other words, if this season he is to erase the memory that haunts him, he will have only one chance. Then again, nowadays that is usually all that he requires.

Hill names Fulham's new board

Jimmy Hill's new consortium takes control of Fulham from property developer, David Bulstrode today with a note of optimism that is supported by the message of "happy days are here again," on the front cover of Saturday's programme.

Johnny Haynes, Alan Mullery and Roy Bentley head the list of former players and show business stars such as Tommy Trinder and David Hamilton who have promised to be at Craven Cottage for the re-birth which is tomorrow's match against Chesterfield.

Hill said: "Fulham is the place to be on Saturday because it will be such a collection of names there than even the players will be looking up into the stand."

The four men who have come up with £500,000 to ensure the third division club's future are Bill Muddyman, who will be the new vice-chairman, and present vice presidents, Cyril Swan and David Garner and Peter Borender. Hill, who has not put any money in, will be chairman.

"These four are the main share-holders and saviours of Fulham and only greed to put money in if I would be chairman for at least two years," said Hill, who also announced a novel board of management that will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the club. It will consist of representatives of the board of directors, Hammersmith Council, the supporters' club, the manager, the general administrator and other people with a specialist knowledge that can help the club.

Hill and the club's manager, Ray Lewington, will soon have to cut the playing staff from 28 to 22 and further shake-ups have been promised for other key areas.

● "If you can't beat them, join them," was the message of a campaign launched by City company, Hanover Druce yesterday, aimed at helping football clubs develop their assets and still keep playing. Sheffield United chairman, Reg Brealey has been appointed consultant.

Decision that bemused Real

By David Miller

It was impossible to be at the Olympic Stadium here on Wednesday night and not reflect how pleasant can be a major European Cup tie with a 70,000 crowd, without the intimidating overtones of English supporters rampaging through the streets, shops and stadium. The controversy and violence here was strictly on the field.

A huge responsibility now rests on Michel Vautrot, the French referee, for the European Cup semi-final second leg at the Bernabeu Stadium on April 22. Real Madrid, together with a 120,000 crowd, will be looking for revenge on Bayern, and what they regard as a grossly unjustified penalty here awarded by Robert Valentine, of Scotland, who also, quite correctly, subsequently sent off Juanito and Mino of Real.

I am reclutant to criticize referees, but unfortunately Valentine was demonstrably wrong on this one critical decision. It means that Vautrot's performance may determine who meets, in all probability, the accomplished Dinamo Kiev in the final in Vienna on May 27.

The history of European competition is punctuated with exceptional recoveries by Real on their own ground: and the disproportionate number of penalties awarded to them at home is an indication of the huge influence imposed, subconsciously or otherwise, on the referees by the Bernabeu crowd.

Leo Beenhakker, Real's young Dutch manager, was commendably philosophical after the first leg. Few men in football are as equable, even when under stress, as are the Dutch, and Beenhakker was having a quiet beer with journalists as he measured the size of Real's task.

"At this moment, the players are angry" he said. "They will still be angry in two weeks, but being angry will not affect them. I believe they can still win."

So, secretly, does, Udo Lattek, Bayern's manager. Such is his fear of Real at home that he had reckoned Bayern needed five goals. Their failure to add to their four goals when Real were reduced to nine men for the last 17 minutes may prove critical.

Real on Wednesday were, for a change, the recipients of the rough edge of a referee's judgement, when Buyo, their goalkeeper, dived to grab the ball cleanly a split second before Dorfner. Bayern's winger, stumbled over his back, and Valentine awarded a penalty. Juanito was sent off for stamping on the face of Matthaus, after the German had been felled by a punch from Chendo, whom he had fouled. Mino went for two clumsy fouls.

"When Valentine was appointed for our match I was delighted," Beenhakker said yesterday. "We have had him several times before and he's always neutral and straight down the line. I cannot comprehend his mistake."

Hope remains for Dundee United

By Stuart Jones

Jim McLean, Dundee United's manager, is not alone in believing that his side could yet reach the final of the UEFA Cup.

Terry Butcher, of England and Rangers, feels that the Scots "are not out of it" in spite of being held at home by Borussia Monchengladbach on Wednesday night.

Yet if the argument is to be decided on logic and technique alone, one leg of the final next month will be staged in West Germany. Even Butcher admitted that he was surprised by the level of Borussia's skill on the wet and muddy turf at Tannadice Park.

Earlier this season he was full of anything but a sense of admiration. They knocked out Rangers in the third round, and, at the end of the second leg during which two of his colleagues were sent off, he was "reduced to tears of frustration" by their antics.

On Wednesday, however, it was Dundee United who provoked groans of disappointment during the first leg of the semi-final, and McLean conceded that his club's followers had a right to voice their disapproval from the terraces, and especially during the first half. "We were awful," he said, and few could have disputed his typically honest appraisal.

On the eve of another semi-final, against Dundee in the Scottish Cup, he remains deeply concerned about his side's apparent loss of form. Only in the closing stages did they raise their challenge against Borussia.

In the second leg Borussia are certain to be without the influential Drehsen, who is automatically suspended for the second time after being booked on Wednesday.

£10m America's Cup challenge by de Savary

How to mix a cocktail of hype



Simon Barnes



America's Cup ahoy: Peter de Savary (right) and Tony Berry toasting a new British challenge (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Just when you thought it was safe to get back into the water, the America's Cup business has started all over again. A British challenge for the next competition was announced yesterday by Peter de Savary, who is, of course, Britain's yachting superstar.

Not that he is actually a yachtsman, of course. He is a businessman, and a particularly shrewd example of the breed. But the stars for the America's Cup are always the businessmen, and not the sailors. This makes excellent sense, given the nature of the event.

So there was de Savary, with his bottle of Bollinger and a cigar the length of a stick of Brighton Rock (it probably said "I am rich" all the way through) at yesterday's Press conference. He is vice-chairman and chief executive of the Blue Arrow Challenge: the chairman is Tony Berry, who is also chairman of the sponsoring company, Blue Arrow. Even non-City people have now heard of Blue Arrow, because of their ads on telly.

The most important sporting fact we learned yesterday was that the challenge will cost £10 million. Berry went on to tell us what excited him about 12-metre yacht racing and the America's Cup. "At first I didn't think it was right for us . . . then I saw the amount of media publicity the event received."

So vive le sport. They plan to spend £4 million on research and development, and will build four, or maybe five, boats in their efforts to make a good 'un. They also told us, in their sporty way, the number of important yachting people they had "got" for the syndicate. "We were looking for a vehicle to promote our name," Berry said, and unveiled a picture of a vehicle. The picture shows a yacht, and it was apparently painted by Grandma Moses, but it says BLUE ARROW on the sail very large indeed: I don't know much about art, but I know what I like.

As Blue Arrow dream on about a fibreglass-hulled billboard, it cannot be denied that the America's Cup is a fascinating phenomenon. But it is not the sport that makes it fascinating. It is the money.

The power, not the glory. It is a battle between rich men who are hurling 100 dollar bills at each other. De Savary has said that his 1983 campaign cost £3.5 million, but that he made three times that in deals he was able to set up because of the stardom — perhaps he would prefer the word 'profile' — given him in America by the America's Cup.

"The America's Cup is the third largest event, after the Olympic Games and the football World Cup," Berry said. "With sponsorship and profile it could become the largest." Well, here is a quiz on how large the event is in the public mind: only non-yachting people may enter. Question: How many America's Cup skippers can you name? Answer: Dennis Conner, and, well, that New Zealand chap, and . . . er . . . No, I suppose Alan Bond is something else, isn't he?

But we all know that the America's Cup must really be a great and fantastic spectacle, because we have been told it is. Again and again. So many millions have been spent by sponsors and various bits of the media that these people are now convinced that none of us can resist the lure of 12-metre yachting. They daren't believe anything else.

But the truth of the matter is, as we all know, that 12-metre yachting is not interesting at all. As a matter of fact, it is extremely boring. The blood of the uncommitted will never be stirred by tacking duels. Darts make much better television. The truth is that the public has become the victim of a huge confidence trick. The enthusiasm of the media for its latest creation, the Americas Cup as mega-event, has created a massive illusion of public interest.

Such public interest as there is, is wholly superficial, probably temporary and is no more than a media-created phenomenon. The America's Cup is surfing on a totally bogus wave of global interest. Only the money is genuine. Meanwhile, we keep being told that the America's Cup is the new king, the new emperor of sport. True, this emperor is rich and powerful beyond all imagining. But tell me: why isn't he wearing any clothes?

Walker rings the changes

By Barry Pickthall

It is just two months since Dennis Conner snatched back the America's Cup from Australia, the venue or indeed year for the next series has not been announced, yet interest in the "Auld Mug" remains at fever pitch in Britain.

Peter de Savary yesterday confirmed forming a new challenge syndicate around Chris Law, the White Crusader helmsman, but other interested parties, including Richard Branson, the Virgin record head, are staying low until after the world championship in Sardinia in June.

Law was to have skippered the Hollom-design 12-metre White Horse at the Porto Cervo-based series, but his abrupt departure to the de Savary camp has forced Graham Walker's British America's Cup challenge group into a change of plan.

Now, Phil Crebbin, the technical director who took over from Eddie Warden-Owen, the Congressional Cup winner, as navigator before White Crusader was knocked out of the Cup in Fremantle, is to campaign this Howlett design along with Derek Clark, the Kookaburra tactician, at the world championship.

White Horse will now be return to Cougar Marine on the Hamble for modifications and the Syndicate intend to test the revamped design against White Crusader in the Solent later this summer.

Unlike other members of the Royal Thames group who have castigated Law for jumping ship, Walker said yesterday that he wished him well in his new role as project manager for de Savary's challenge.

But would Walker work alongside other syndicates?

"We are open to full co-operation with anyone who shows serious intentions in bringing back the Cup, but not with people who may not be there at the finish. We have the management structure, crew, boats, and an 18-month design lead over new syndicates and have been talking to all interested parties," Walker said. "Also do not underestimate Branson's plans which could yet prove more formidable than de Savary's."

● While most of Britain's Admiral's Cup contenders have still to touch the water — Walker's latest Andrieu-designed Indulgence is due for launching in France immediately after Easter.

Other nations are also well into working up their trialists for this premier offshore series. This week New Zealand announced their selections. Goldcorp, the Lawrie Davidson-design and Propaganda (Bruce Farr), both one tonners, have teamed with the larger 44-footer Kiwi and will be shipped shortly for fine tuning for the Champagne Mumm-sponsored series, starting in Christchurch Bay in late July.

The Australians are expected to announce their team on April 24, after an exhaustive 12-race selection series off Victoria, while the West Germans, currently trialing in the Mediterranean, are expected to present the stiffest competition.

Bill Edgerton, Britain's Admiral's Cup coach, has returned from a spying mission to Spain and reports that preparations by the German cup-holders are well advanced. Their winter training programme has sharpened crews to a high level

GOLF

Merchiston free to renew a Scottish rivalry

By John Hennessy

The first two results of the Halford Hewitt tournament at Deal yesterday conspired to produce a second-round tie today of fascinating possibilities. Edinburgh takes centre stage as the Academy and Merchiston face each other for the first time in many years of stalwart support of this competition.

It is something of a blood match; an echo, they claim, of the oldest schools rugby match in the world — and they may well be right, since the schools celebrated their 125th meeting in 1982. One of the players on that memorable occasion, the Academy's Charles Maran, now takes part in another historic encounter.

But whereas Edinburgh Academy overwhelmed Gresham's yesterday, Merchiston were worried survivors against Aldenham, taken to the last hole of the last match. Aldenham there needed to despatch a putt of 20 feet to stay alive, but, whereas the situation called for a gambler's throw, they were woefully short, and indeed took two more. A laudable winner for Aldenham was Peter Brules, a British boys' champion more than half a century ago.

Repton, the holders, narrowly beat dangerous opponents in Whitgift, for whom the Hedges brothers had looked a good bet in the second match. But they failed, where every other pair before them had failed, against Griffiths and Wood. These two came together for the start of last year's competition and won all their six matches.

The Repton pair, three up with five to play, lost the 14th and should have lost the 15th, for Peter Hedges betrayed his Walker Cup pedigree by missing a putt of no more than 18 inches. His brother could have saved the match from 15 feet at the 16th, but that one, much less culpably, went astray as well.

Robinson, a member of this year's Walker Cup team, did his duty by Stowe, at the side of Stern. They opened up 4,3,2, against the hapless Ross-Collins and Fricker, of Harrow, and another birdie at the ninth put them six up. Stowe were about par when they won by 4 and 3 but it was all to no avail.

Harrow, showing greater all-round consistency, had already pocketed the first two matches and while Mann and Warman were seeking their third vital point Frederick, in the last match, ended all anxiety. He hit the 15th pin with a superb three iron for a 5 and 3 win in partnership with Sheffield.

First round results:

DEAL: Edinburgh Academy 5, Gresham's 0; Merchiston 3, Aldenham 2; Marlborough 3½, Dulwich 1½; King Edward's School, Birmingham 3, Canford 2; Forest 3, Wrekin 2; Repton 3, Whitgift 2; Haileybury 5, City of London 0; Loretto 3, Wellington 2; Cheltenham 4, Framlingham 1; Mill Hill 3½, Chigwell 1½; Eton 3, Highgate 2.

SANDWICH: Bradfield 5, Trent 0; Fettes 3, Cranleigh 2; Blundell's 4½, Hurstpierpoint ½; Downside 3½, The Leys 1½; Sherborne 3, Uppingham 2; King's Canterbury 3, Glenalmond 2; Tonbridge 4, Taunton 1; Epsom 5, Brighton 0; Felsted 3½, Bedford 1½; Harrow 3½, Stowe 1½.

Millfield ready to make history

By a Special Correspondent

The Welsh international, Julie Foster, led Millfield to the Golf Foundation International Schools Team Championship final yesterday. Her two over par 76 on a soggy Robin Hood course was the crucial contribution to her team's winning total of 241 in the English final.

Miss Foster, aged 18, and with a handicap of two, was a rare girl competitor in this event, but Millfield could create history by fielding an all-girls team at Foxhills on May 16 in the International final which the school has won twice before. Their team was chosen from a squad of eight including Sophie Gervas, the Spaniard, and Marie Ann Gerber from Hong Kong, who is half-Swiss, half-Chinese. Both play off three.

Miss Foster three-putted three times which robbed her of the individual prize. That went to Adrian Morley, a former England Boys player from King's School, Grantham, whose back nine of 37 was one better than the Welsh girl's.

Millfield's other players, both aged 16 and five-handicappers, were Freddie Drabble, who shot 82, and David Baker, 83. Drabble deposed his captain, Paul Goad, in a shoot-out during practise the previous day.

Verulam School, St Albans, took second place, King's, Grantham, tipping Brockenhurst College, Hampshire, to third place on a count-back.

RESULTS: 241: Millfield School, Street. 245: Verulam School, St Albans. 246: King's, Grantham, Brockenhurst College, Hampshire. 247: Collingwood Co. Sec, Camberley.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

EUROPEAN CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Bayern Munich 4, Real Madrid 1; Porto 2, Dynamo Kiev 1.

CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Real Zaragoza 2, Ajax 3; Bordeaux 0, Lokomotiv Leipzig 1.

UEFA CUP: Semi-finals, first leg: Göteborg 4, Swarovski Tyrol 1; Dundee United 0, Borussia Mönchengladbach 0.

FIRST DIVISION: Newcastle United 4, Norwich City 1; West Ham United 3, Arsenal 1

SECOND DIVISION: Derby County 2, Huddersfield Town 0; Hull City 0, Leeds United 0.

THIRD DIVISION: Postponed: Bristol Rovers v Darlington

FOURTH DIVISION: Hereford United 3, Northampton Town 2.

FREIGHT ROVER TROPHY: Northern section: Final, first leg: Mansfield Town 2, Chester City 0. Southern section: Final, first leg: Aldershot 1, Bristol City 0.

UNDER-16 INTERNATIONAL: England 2, Canada 0.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Aston Villa 1, Leicester City 2; Oldham Athletic 1, Sheffield Wednesday 1; Sheffield United 1, Manchester City 2. Postponed: Nottingham Forest v Coventry City. Second division: Preston North End 3, Doncaster Rovers 1; Stoke City 0, Scunthorpe United 1.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Portsmouth 1, Queen's Park Rangers 4.

MACBAR SOUTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Cardiff City 1, Bournemouth 0.

GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Cheltenham 1, Boston 3; Kettering 2, Enfield 0; Maidstone 2, Nuneaton 0. Postponed: Weymouth v Sutton United.

MULTIPART LEAGUE: Macclesfield 4, Workington 3. Postponed: Worksop v Marine.

VAUXHALL-OPEL LEAGUE: Premier division: Yeovil 2, Kingstonian 0. Second division north: Collier Row 2, Rainham 0.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Woodford 3, Ford 2.

THAMESIDE TROPHY: Quarter-final: Purfleet 4, Orient 1; Southend United 3, Grays 2.

HALLS BREWERY HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Bicester 1, Thame 1; Fairford 1, Shornwood 0; Moreton 1, Sharpness 2. Postponed: Rayners Lane v Abingdon Town.

RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCHES: Aberavon 18, Swansea 6; Bridgend 6, South Wales Police 10; Clifton 6, Bath 23; Coventry 21, Rugby 22; Cross Keys 7, Neath 36; Llanelli 10, Maesteg 25; Newbridge 43, Penarth 0; Newport 43, Pontypool 3; Portsmouth 6, Havant 12. Postponed: Pontypridd v Glamorgan Wanderers.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES: Public School Wanderers 18, Combined Services 22; Lloyds 48, Stock Exchange 14.

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: St Helens 26, Barrow 4; Warrington 26, Widnes 16; Wigan 54, Oldham 2. Postponed: Wakefield v Halifax. Second division: Runcorn 14, Rochdale 15.

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Great Britain Students 18, France Students 12.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)		Conditions			Weather (5pm)	
	L	U	Piste	Off Piste	Runs to resort	-	°C
AUSTRIA							
Sölden	10	200	fair	heavy	art	cloud	-4
Best skiing above 3000m							
FRANCE							
Morzine	20	140	fair	heavy	worn	rain	9
Wet conditions everywhere							
La Plagne	170	350	fair	heavy	fair	cloud	0
Wet snow on soft base							
SWITZERLAND							
Verbier	10	230	good	heavy	poor	snow	6
Slush on lower slopes							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper, and art to artificial.

FRANCE

Haute Savoie/Savoie	Depth (cm) Min	Max
Les Arcs	85	230
Notre Dame de Bellecombe	20	100
Chamonix	3	300
Chatel	120	235
La Clusaz	20	220
Les Contamines	10	150
La Cortier	60	140
Courchevel	140	21
Flaine	120	220
Les Gets	30	100
Megeve	20	165
Les Menuires	85	215
Meribel	100	210
La Rosiere	160	280
St Gervais	60	160
Tignes	175	200
Val Cenis	20	120
Val d'Isere	165	220
Valloire	40	160
Valmorel	100	190
Val Thorens	150	275
Isère		
Alpe d'Huez	165	300
Chamrousse	60	90
Les deux Alpes	60	340
Villard de Lans	40	100
Alpes du Sud		
Isola 2000	150	200
Montgenevre	100	150
Les Orres	30	120
Serre Chevalier	40	200
Vars	85	105
Pyrénées		
Barèges	15	140
Cauterets	100	220
Font Romeu	50	75
La Mongie	70	170
St Lary	45	80
Superbagnères	20	110

ITALY

	Depth (cm) Min	Max
Abetone	50	150
Alleghe	50	150
Andalo	10	220
Aprica	0	250
Arabba	90	190
Bardonecchia	40	140
Bormio	0	90
Canazei	30	150
Caspoggio	0	120
Cervinia	100	200
Chiesa Valmalenco	0	160
Claviere	40	110
Cortina d'Ampezzo	20	160
Corvara	20	70
Courmayeur	70	250
Falcade	30	150
Foppolo	60	100
La Thuile	60	250
Livigno	80	200
Madesimo	100	190
Madonna di Campiglio	70	220
Mecugnaga	80	150
Marilleva	80	180
Ortisei	20	120
Prancavallo	100	150
Ravascletto	100	175
S Caterina Valfurva	70	150
S Martino di Castrozza	50	180
Sappada	40	170
Selva di Valgardena	20	120
Sestriere	70	110
Tonale	140	120

● Information supplied by the Italian National Tourist Office.

SCOTLAND: Cairngorm: upper runs, runs complete, wide snow cover, spring snow; middle runs, runs complete, wide snow cover, spring snow; lower slopes, runs complete but narrow, wet snow; vertical runs, 1,800ft; snow level, 2,000ft; hill and main roads, clear. Glenshee: upper runs, runs complete, spring snow on a firm base; middle runs, runs complete, wet snow on a firm base; lower slopes, some runs complete, wet snow on a firm base; vertical runs, 1,500ft; snow level, 1,500ft; hill and main roads, clear. Glencoe: upper runs, runs complete, spring snow on a firm base; lower slopes, runs complete, wet snow on a firm base; vertical runs, 1,500ft; snow level, 2,200ft; hill and main roads, clear. Leebit: upper runs, runs complete, wide snow cover, hard packed snow on a firm base; middle runs, runs complete, wide snow cover, hard-packed snow on a firm base; lower slopes, ample nursery areas, hard packed snow on a firm base; vertical runs, 700ft; hill and main roads, clear; snow level, 2,000ft.

Forecast for today: mainly cloudy with showers, heavier and more frequent at Glencoe, falling as snow above 1,500ft; wind moderate or fresh west to south-west; freezing level, 2,000ft. Outlook for tomorrow: sunny intervals and scattered showers, snow at higher levels; freezing level, 2,000ft; wind fresh westerly.

● Information supplied by the Scottish Meteorological Office.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

NANJING: Chinese Open: British scores: Men's singles: First round: X Biao (China) bt D Hall (Eng), 15-8, 14-18, 15-11. Doubles: First round: B Gailland (Scot) and J Nienhoft (Den) bt Huang Zhen and Chen Hongyong (China), 17-14, 15-8; He Shangqun and Zhang Xinguang (China) bt D Hall and N Tier (Eng), 15-3, 15-7. Women's singles: First round: Z Jie bt F Elliott (Eng), 11-8, 7-11, 11-8; H Hua bt G Gowers (Eng), 12-9, 11-5. Doubles: First round: Zhang Junying and Yao Fen (China) bt F Elliott and D Kjaer (Den), 13-15, 15-8, 15-11; G Clark and G Gowers bt Shi Wen and Wu Yunong (China), 17-4, 7-15, 15-2

BASEBALL

NORTH AMERICA: American League: Tuesday: California Angels 7, Seattle Mariners 1 (10); Minnesota Twins 5, Oakland Athletics 4. National League: Cincinnati Reds 11, Montreal Expos 5. San Francisco Giants 4, San Diego Padres 3 (12 innings); Houston Astros 4, Los Angeles Dodgers 3. American League: Wednesday: Toronto Blue Jays 5, Cleveland Indians 1; New York Yankees 6, Detroit Tigers 5; Texas Rangers 8, Baltimore Orioles 4; Milwaukee Brewers 3, Boston Red Sox 2; Minnesota Twins 4, Oakland Athletics 1; Kansas City Royals 9, Chicago White Sox 3; California Angels 7, Seattle Mariners 1. National League: Cincinnati Reds 7, Montreal Expos 2; Houston Astros 7, Los Angeles Dodgers 3; San Francisco Giants 2, San Diego Padres 1.

BASKETBALL

UNITED STATES: National Association (NBA): Washington Bullets 118, New Jersey Nets 109; Atlanta Hawks 110, Philadelphia 76ers 82; Sacramento Kings 111, San Antonio Spurs 110; Utah Jazz 103, Dallas Mavericks 90.

TABLE TENNIS

RONNEBY, Sweden: European Leagues: Super division: Sweden 5, Hungary 1: (Swedish names first): Jan-Ove Waldner bt J Vitsek, 21-17, 21-9; T Von Scheele bt M Samos, 10-21, 21-19, 21-16, B Widorsson bt G Fazekas, 21-13, 21-15; Waldner and Von Scheele bt Vitsek and Samos, 21-15, 21-14; Von Scheele and Mario Svensson bt Samos and Fazekas, 21-18, 18-21, 21-18, Waldner bt Samos, 14-21, 21-12, 21-19; Von Scheele lost to Vitsek, 22-24, 19-21.

TENNIS

BARI, Italy: Grand prix tournament: Second round: H De La Pena (Arg) bt C Allgardh (Swe), 6-3, 7-5; J Arrendaso (Sp) bt J Berger (US), 5-7, 7-6, 6-3; R Osterthun (WG) bt O Camporese (It), 7-5, 5-7, 6-2; U Steinlund (Swe) bt E Bengoechea (Arg), 6-1, 1-6, 6-4; F Davin (Arg) bt P Carraya (Peru), 6-2, 6-4. HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: Family Circle Cup: Singles: Second round: G Sabatini (Arg) bt T Schauer-Larsen (Den), 6-0, 6-2; J Garrison (US) bt A Holikova (Cz), 6-2, 6-2; C Evert Lloyd (US) bt P Huber (Austria), 7-5, 6-2; D Spence (US) bt V Nelson-Dunbar (US), 6-4, 2-6, 7-6; B Bunge (WG) bt L Gurdal (WG), 6-1, 6-3; K Maleeva (Bul) bt W Wiesa (US), 6-1, 6-2; M J Fernandez (US) bt P Medrado (Braz), 6-3, 7-6; S Cecchini (It) bt B Fulco (Arg), 7-5, 6-3. Third round: H Kelesi (Can) bt E Pfaff (WG), 6-1, 6-2. M Maleeva (Bul) bt M Torres (US), 6-2, 6-0; S Graf (WG) bt M-C Calleja (Fr), 6-1, 6-2.

CYCLING

CHARLEVILLE-MEZIERES, France: Circuit of Ardennes: 164km second stage: 1, Jean-Francois Laffite (Fr) 4hr 10min 24sec (3sec on bonus); 2, Carlsen (Den) 4:10:24 (10sec bonus); 3, Masson (Fr) 4:10:24; 4, Berndt (EG) 4:10:25; 5, Skalkov (Bul) 4:10:50.

VERA DE BIDASOA, Spain: Basque Tour: 184km (102.5 miles) third stage (Spanish unless stated): 1, M Early (Ire) 4hr 45min 55sec; 2, A da Silva (Port) 8sec behind; 3, S Kelly (Ire) 16sec behind; 4, Jose Luis Laguia; 5, S Rocha (Irel); 6, J Blanco Villar; 7, P Delgado; 8, J Gonzalez; 9, C Prieto; 10, A Pino all same time. Overall standings: 1, Early 14:14.09; 2, Da Silva 8sec behind; 3, Kelly 16sec behind; 4, Laguia; 5, Rocha; 6, Pino; 7, Delgado; 8, Blanco Villar; 9, Prieto; 10, Gorospe; same time.

GOLF

TAIPEI: Taiwan open: First round (Taiwanese unless stated): 66: M Aebi (US). 69: M Canning (US), 71: Lu Liang-Huan, Hsieh Yu-Shu, Lu Chien-Soon, Chang Chun-Hsing, I Sugita (Japan), M Amano (Japan). 72: Lin Chia, Hsu Huang-Lung, C Wagner (US), S Spence (US), J Hallet (US), S Bowman (US), P O'Malley (Aus), Y Kuroyama (Japan), K Terton (Japan), S Kaushi (Japan). 73: Wong Teh-Cheng, Tseo Chen-Teng, Hsieh Min-Nan, Kuo Chie-Hsiang, Hsieh Chin-Hseng, H Shirayama (Japan), T Itoh (Japan), H Enoto (Japan), J Benece (US), J Rubadge (US), K Cashman (US), M Standly (US).

FOOTBALL

ITALIAN CUP: Second round: Second leg: Lazio 0, Juventus 2 (agg: 0-2); Inter Milan 1, Empoli 0 (agg: 3-0); Brescia 0, Napoli 3 (agg: 0-6); Cesena 0, Atalanta 0 (agg: 1-2); Parma 0 AC Milan 0 (agg: 1-0); Torino 0, Cagliari 0 (agg: 0-1); Bologna 1, Roma 1 (Bologna win on away goals); Catanzaro 0, Verona 0 (Catanzaro win 4-3 on penalties).

BRAZILIAN: Rio de Janeiro League: Vasco da Gama 3, Portuguesa 0; Goytacaz 2, Flamengo 2; Mesquita 1, Fluminense 1; Olaria 0, America 0; Americano 3, Porto Alegre 1; Campo Grande 1, Caxiasense 0; Bonsucesso 1, Bangu 0. Leading positions: 1, Vasco da Gama, 17pts; 2, Fluminense, 15; 3, Botafogo, 14. Sao Paulo League: Palmeiras 1, Piracicaba 0; Santos 1, Botafogo 1; Novorizontino 2, Ferroviaria 2; Ponte Preta 1, Santo Andre 0; Mogi Mirim 1, Bensiemite 1; Sao Bento 1, Portuguesa 1. Leading positions: 1, Botafogo, 16pts; 2, Inter Limeira and Ponte Preta, 5; 4, Sao Bento, Portuguesa, Ferroviaria, 8.

FOOTBALL COMBINATION: Tottenham 4, Southampton 2. Fulham 3, Brighton 1; Swindon 2, Crystal Palace 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL): Semi-final play-offs (best-of-seven series): Patrick division: New York Rangers 3, Philadelphia Flyers 0; Washington Capitals 4, New York Islanders 3 (New York and Washington lead series 1-0). Adams division: Hartford Whalers 3, Quebec Nordiques 2; Montreal Canadiens 3, Boston Bruins 2 (Hartford and Montreal lead series 1-0). Norris division: Detroit Red Wings 3, Chicago Blackhawks 1; St Louis Blues 3, Toronto Maple Leafs 1 (Detroit and St Louis lead series 1-0). Smythe division: Los Angeles Kings 5, Edmonton Oilers 2; Winnipeg Jets 4, Calgary Flames 2 (Los Angeles and Winnipeg lead series 1-0).

HELSINKI: European junior championships: Finland 7, West Germany 2; Sweden 13, Poland 0; Soviet Union 5, Switzerland 0; Czechoslovakia 5, Norway 1.

RACKETS

**QUEEN'S CLUB: Celestion open doubles championships: Quarter-finals: J Pearn and J Male bt T Brudenell and D Ruck-Keene, 15-3, 15-9, 15-3; N Smith (Queen's) and T Pugh bt C

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle



Chat show chat: David Frost and Russell Harty in the Arena documentary Talk is Cheap (on BBC2, 9.30pm)

A staircase to pastiche

● The first chat show was probably *In Town Tonight*, which started in 1933, moved to television and the World Service and claimed (though it seems extraordinary) a global audience of 100 million. Now there are a dozen or more chat shows every week and the main reason is summed up in the title of tonight's *Arena*, **Talk is Cheap** (BBC2, 9.30-10.30pm). The programme is itself a pastiche of the genre, with David Frost, Russell Harty and Kenneth Williams trotting down the obligatory staircase to take their seats with host of the evening, Gus Macdonald. *Talk is Cheap* is a good deal more entertaining than its subject often is. Apart from the studio pundits, we eavesdrop on the *Wogan* planning meeting which is alive with bright ideas, like trying to get Maggie and Denis together for Valentine's Day. Then there is Malcolm Muggeridge, the doyen of telly chat, reluctantly admitting a TV set to his home so that he can watch himself on it. The best moments in chat shows are when the guests take over, as when old Ralph Richardson once did it to Harty. But as Loyd Grossman shrewdly remarks apropos the *Wogan* set, with its cosy colours and chain store ambience, the chat show is designed to be a thing of consensus rather than conflict. So sit back, suspend the intelligence and await the deathless words: "My next guest is ..."

Peter Waymark

CHOICE

● *Peter Davalle writes:* What with the spontaneous disintegration of their country home around their ears, their mole-riddled lawn, a massacre of thrushes, their sickly Statiotes Sylvaticus, and their sun that suddenly takes it into its head to quit the heavens, the Carboys who inhabit the surreal world of James Saunders's **Barnstable** (Radio 3, 10.00pm) are tailor-made for the Theatre of the Absurd. And, sure enough, this is the slot into which Saunders's priceless piece has been fitted. The entire cast, from Dinsdale Landen's pony paterfamilias to Peter Howell's cherubic cleric, dispense their lunatic philosophies with that poker-faced matter of factness which connoisseurs of high-quality farce will recognize as the *sine qua non* of the genre



Dinsdale Landen in Barnstable: on Radio 3, 10.00pm

BBC1

6.00 Ceefax *AM*. **6.55** Weather.
7.00 Breakfast Time National and international news at **7.00, 7.30, 8.00** and **8.30**; regional news and travel reports at **7.15, 7.45** and **8.15**; weather at **7.25, 7.55** and **8.25**.
8.40 Watchdog. Consumer complaints investigate. **8.55** Regional news and weather.
9.00 News and weather **9.05 Day to Day.** With Robert Kilroy-Silk. **9.45 Advice Line** with Paul Clark and Eileen Evason.
10.00 News and weather **10.05 Neighbours** (r) **10.25 Children's BBC.** With Andy Crane. **10.30 Play School 10.50 Paddington.** (r)
10.55 Five to Eleven. Wendy Richard with a thought for the day **11.00 News** and weather **11.05 Your Life in Their Hands.** The story of the operation on Holly and Carly. Jill Reich's Siamese twins born facing each other, joined from breast bone to navel. (r)
12.00 News and weather **12.05 The Tom O'Connor Roadshow** from the Playhouse Theatre, Liverpool **12.55** Regional news and weather.
1.00 One O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. Weather **1.25 Neighbours.** Paul and Terry try to come to terms with the loss of the house they had set their hearts on **1.50 Mopp and Smiff** presented by Mike Amatt. (r)
2.05 The Liver Birds. Comedy series starring Nerys Hughes and Elizabeth Estensen. (r) **2.35 Knots Landing.** Mack has his hands full when his father turns up with the intention of spending the rest of his days with him. **3.25 Box Clever.** Family quiz game.
3.50 The Amazing Adventures of Morph, with Tony Hart. (r) **4.00 Corners.** young people's queries answered. **4.15 Ulysses 31.** Animated adventure series. (r) **4.40 A Day in the Life** of a weasel. *With the voices of* Hywel Bennett and Jan Francis as weasels and Philip Madoc as the owl. (r) **5.05 Seaview.** Episode four. (r)
5.35 Snooker: Taylor Made. Dennis Taylor's masterclass. (first shown on BBC Northern Ireland)
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Sue Lawley and Philip Hayton. Weather.
6.35 London Plus.
7.00 A Song for Europe 1987. Terry Wogan introduces the ten songs vying to become the United Kingdom's representative at the Eurovision Song Contest in Brussels next month.
8.00 Dynasty. Emily Fallmont's dying wish is that Blake uses the letter she has left him to create chaos for his enemies. (Ceefax)
8.50 Points of View with Anne Robinson.
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Julia Somerville and Philip Hayton. Regional news and weather.
9.30 Whicker's World: Living With Uncle Sam. In the third of his ten films on Britains who are living and working in the United States among those Alan Whicker meets are a man who has created a multi-million dollar brewery in Manhattan; and the driver of a horse-drawn carriage in Central Park. (r) (Ceefax)
10.25 Film: Twilight's Last Gleaming (1977) starring Burt Lancaster and Richard Widmark. A nuclear thriller about an embittered, cashiered general who, with a team of ex-convicts, breaks into the launch control centre of a titan missile silo and threatens to fire the nuclear warheads. Directed by Richard Aldrich.
12.45 Weather.



Arms and the man: John Duttine as the detective and Lesa Lockford : A Killing on the Exchange (ITV, 9.00pm)

BBC2

6.55 Open University: Electrons and Atoms. *Ends at* **7.20**
9.00 Ceefax.
2.00 News and weather.
2.02 100 Great Sporting Moments. Robin Cousins skating in the 1980 Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid.
2.15 Racing from Newbury. The 2.30, 3.00, 3.30 and the 4.00. . Includes news and weather at 2.50 and 3.50.
4.15 Look Stranger. A profile of wildlife artist Beshlie Heron . (r)
4.40 Pamela Armstrong. There is a look behind the scenes at a recording of The Archers; and an interview with Arthur Scargill.
5.10 Horizon: Trial Babies. . A repeat of Monday's programme about the different methods of testing whether or not two older mothers-to-be are carrying babies with Down's Syndrome.
6.00 Film: I See Ice* (1938) starig George Formby and Kay Walsh. Comedy about a photographer's assistant who develops a miniature camera, capable of being secreted in a bow-tie. Complications arise, the man loses his job and ends up as an ice-hockey referee. Directed by Anthony Kimmins.
7.20 Tex Avery. A cartoon entitled The Cat That Hated People.
7.30 The Education Programme. Sarah Kennedy presents a discussion on 'A National Curriculum - Right or Wrong?' between Junior Education Minister, Angela Rumbold; Donald Naismith; Tim Brighouse; and David Hart.
8.00 The Big Class. The story of the big yachts and their wealthy owners who sailed in the Solent in the 1930s. (first shown on BBC South)
8.30 Gardeners' World. Geoff Hamilton and Roy Lancaster visit Lingholm Gardens, Cumbria, owned by Viscount Rochdale, to see the display of daffodils and to talk to the head gardener, Mike Swift, about the propogation of trees, shrubs and flowers.
9.00 Now - Something Else. Comedy impressions from Rory Bremner .
9.30 Arena: Talk is Cheap. Gus Macdonald hosts a programme that analyses the success of chat shows. Among those taking part are Simon Dee and Malcolm Muggeridge. (see Choice)
10.30 Facing Up to Aids. Alexandra Pigg plays Jan, a young woman about to be married, discussing with David Miller of the Middlesex Hospital, whether or not to take the Aids test.
10.45 Newsnight 11.30 Weather.

ITV/LONDON

6.15 TV-am introduced by Caroline Righton and Mike Morris. Weather at **6.28** and **6.58**; news at **6.30**; financial news at **6.35**; sport at **6.40**; and exercises at **6.55**.
7.00 Good Morning Britain presented by Anne Diamond and Richard Keys. News at **7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** and **9.00**; cartoon at **7.25**; sport at **7.40**; pop music at **7.55**; and Jimmy Greaves's television highlights at **8.35**. After Nine includes Russell Grant's astrology; and exercises with Lizzie Webb.
9.25 Thames news headlines followed by **Film: The Mountain** (1956) starring Spencer Tracy and Robert Wagner. Drama about a retired Alpine guide who decides to lead a rescue party to the wreckage of an airliner when he discovers his younger brother is planning to loot the 'plane in order to escape from village life. Directed by Edward Dmytryk **11.20 Cartoon Time.**
11.30 About Britain. Jim Flegg visits Dorset's Blackmoor Vale in September.
12.00 Orm and Cheep. (r) **12.10 Rainbow.** Learning with puppets.
12.30 Manscape. Neil Cossons in praise of the Great Western Railway.
1.00 News at One with Leonard Parkin **1.20 Thames news.**
1.30 Film: Holiday on the Buses (1973) starring Reg Varney. Stan and Jack are fired from the depot and find work driving a holiday camp bus in Wales. Directed by Bryan Izzard.
3.00 Take the High Road. Is there a real need to replace the old ferry with a new boat? **3.25 Thames news** headlines **3.30 Sons and Daughters.**
4.00 Rainbow. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10.
4.15 Batfink. (r) **4.25 Emu's Wide World** with Rod Hull **5.15 Ask No Questions.** Celebrity quiz game without questions.
5.45 News with Fiona Armstrong.
6.00 The 6 O'Clock Show.
7.00 Through the Keyhole. David Frost is the host to a celebrity panel trying to discover the identity of the owners of two splendid homes discovered by Loyd grossman. With Willie Rushton, Eve Pollard, and Chris Tarrant. (Oracle)
7.30 Murder She Wrote. Jessica spends her holiday in Hawaii trying to prove private eye Thomas Magnum innocent of two brutal murders.
8.30 Running Wild. The final episode and Max and his new flame plan a dinner for four with Babs and her man of the moment. (Oracle)
9.00 A Killing on the Exchange. John Field prepares to leave Carr Sillman's now that he appears to have lost the promotion race and his mistress to Dan Maitland. The last episode. (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall includes a report from Peter Sharp in Mocambique with the Frelimo forces.
10.30 The London Programme. An investigation into the London Labour Party's Gay Rights campaign. Among those interviewed is Ken Livingstone. Followed by **LWT News** headlines
11.05 Film: Alfie (1966) starring Michael Caine as an East End philanderer recounting lurid stories concerning his many conquests. With, among others, Vivien Merchant, Shelley Winters, Jane Asher, and Denholm Elliott. Directed by Lewis Gilbert.
1.05 Live at Wilebski's. Blues music from Minnesota. Ends at **1.30.**



James Callaghan is the subject of Brian Walden's three part interview beginning on Channel 4 at 8.15pm

CHANNEL 4

2.15 Their Lordships' House. (r)
2.30 Channel 4 Racing from Ayr. Brough Scott introduces coverage of the ICI Petrol Novices' Hurdle (2.35); the Glen International Scottish Champion Hurdle (3.10); the Edinburgh Woollen Mill 'Equorian' Novices' Chase (3.40); and the George Graham Memorial Handicap Chase (4.10)
4.30 Countdown. The final of the 11th competition and John Clarke, the number one seed, meets David Reid, seeded number seven.
5.15 World of Animation presented by Richard Evans.
5.30 The Tube presented by Jools Holland and Paula Yates. Among those appearing are The Cult, Echo and the Bunnymen, Joe Jackson, and the Very Things. On film is Lionel Ritchie.
7.00 Channel 4 News with Nicholas Owen and Anne Perkins includes a report on the growth of American-style television evangelism in Britain. **Weather.**
7.50 Book Choice. Caroline Moore, the first Fellow of Peterhouse College, Cambridge, reviews the re-issue of Robert Elsmere, written in 1888 by Mrs Humphrey Ward, considered by Tolstoy to be the greatest English novelist.
8.00 What the Papers Say with Michael Leapman.
8.15 Callaghan. The first of three programmes in which James Callaghan reflects on life and politics with Brian Walden. (see Choice)
9.00 E.R. Medical comedy series starring Elliot Gould as the world-weary Howard Sheinfeld, a doctor working in the Emergency Room of a large inner-city hospital. Tonight, his teenage daughter turns up for treatment, braving the blizzards of a freezing Chicago winter.
9.30 Plants for Free. Part two of the series from the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley. (Oracle)
10.00 Cheers. Woody receives a 'Dear John' letter from his former girlfriend, Beth, and decides to investigate Sam's little black book of names and addresses. (Oracle)
10.30 The Last Resort with Jonathan Ross. The guests are Terry Gilliam, Dr Ruth Westheimer, Dawn French, and, with a song, Tom Jones.
11.20 Film: The Bofors Gun (1968) starring Nicol Williamson, David Warner, and Ian Holm. Drama, set in a British Army barracks in Germany in 1954, about a clash between a lance-corporal hoping to become a commissioned officer, and fiery-tempered Irish gunner. Directed by Jack Gold. Ends at **1.15.**

VARIATIONS

BBC1 **WALES** 5.35pm-6.00 Wales Today. 6.35-7.00 Sportfolio. 12.46am-12.50 News and weather **SCOTLAND** 10.50am-11.00 Dotaman 5.35pm-7.00 Reporting Scotland 10.25-10.55 Left, Right and Centre 10.55-1.15am Film: Twilight's Last Gleaming 1.15-1.20 Weather **NORTHERN IRELAND** 5.35pm-5.40 Today's Sport 5.40-6.00 Inside Ulster 6.35-7.00 First Class 12.46am-12.50 News and weather **ENGLAND** 6.35pm-7.00 Regional news magazines.

BBC2 **WALES** 5.00pm-6.00 Public Account **SCOTLAND** 5.00pm-6.30 The Big Class **NORTHERN IRELAND** 5.00pm-6.30 A Question of Sport **ENGLAND** 5.00pm-6.30 **East:** East on Two **Midlands:** Life File **North:** Northern Lights **North-east:** Northwards **North-west:** Age of Fear **South:** The Solent Way **South-west:** Chasing the Wind **West:** West on Two.

ANGLIA As London except: 9.25am Fabulous Funnies 9.50 Ask No Questions 10.20 Cartoon 10.30 Dining in France 11.00-11.30 Look Who's Talking 1.25pm News 1.30-3.00 Film: Gorgo 5.15-5.45 Blockbusters 6.00-7.00 About Anglia 7.30-8.30 Magnum 10.30 Cross Question 11.10 Film: Murphy's War 1.10am Late Night Final, Closedown.

BORDER As London except: 9.25am House on the Harbour 10.20-11.30 Smurfs 1.20pm News 1.30 Shammy Dab 2.00 Angel Who Pawned Her Harp 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors 6.00 Lookaround 6.30-7.00 Take the High Road 10.30 Butterfly 12.25am Close.

CENTRAL As London except: 9.25am Gods and Heroes 10.35 Blinkins 11.00-11.30 Chase Through the Night 1.20 News 1.30-3.00 The Stranger Came Home" 5.15-5.45 Different Strokes 6.00 News 6.45-7.00 Central Post 7.30-9.30 T J Hooker 10.35 Central Weekend 12.00 Otley 1.40am Jobfinder 2.40 Close.

CHANNEL As London except: 9.25am Once Upon a Time...Man 9.55-11.30 Rhodes of Africa" 1.20 News 1.30 Gasbags" 3.30-4.00 Country GP 5.15-5.45 Blockbusters 6.00 Channel Report 6.25 Diary 6.30-7.00 Country Ways 10.30 Road Dreams 11.00 The Eagle has Landed 1.25am Close.

GRAMPIAN As London except: 9.25am Robostory 9.55 Beyond 2,000 10.40 Struggle Beneath the Sea 11.05-11.30 Short Story 1.20pm News 1.30 Loveboat 2.25 Take the High Road 2.55 Sons and Daughters 3.30 Smurfs 3.45-4.00 Trang Trang 5.15-5.45 Blockbusters 6.00-7.00 North Tonight 10.30 Crossfire 11.10 The Execution 12.45am News, close.

GRANADA As London except: 9.25am Granada Reports 9.30 European Folk Tales 9.40 Longest Row 10.30 Mr T 11.00 Once Upon a Time...Man 11.25-12.00 About Britain 1.20pm Granada Reports 1.30 The Week in View 2.00-3.00 Tucker's Witch 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors 5.15-5.45 Mr Merlin 6.00 Granada Reports 6.30-7.00 Please, Sir! 7.30-8.30 Magnum 10.30 Alfred Hitchcock 11.00 European Papers 11.15 Cervantes 1.30 Close.

HTV WEST As London except: 9.25am Mr Merlin 9.45 Henson's Place 10.40 Gather Your Dreams 11.05-11.30 When the Chips are Down 1.20pm News 1.30-3.00 The Calendar" 5.15-5.45 Who's the Boss? 6.00-7.00 News 7.30-8.30 T J Hooker 10.30 Good Neighbour Show 11.00 Your Say 11.15 Strange and Deadly Occurrence 12.35 Close.

HTV WALES As HTV West except: 6.00pm-7.00 Wales at Six 10.30-12.35am Film: File of the Golden Goose.

SCOTTISH As London except: 9.25am The Outsiders 10.25 The Baron 11.15-11.30 Country Calendar 1.20pm News 1.30 Live at One-Thirty 2.00 Film: Blondie Brings up Baby" 3.15 Sons and Daughters 3.45-4.00 Trang Trang 5.15-5.45 Blockbusters 6.00 Scotland Today 6.30-7.00 Who's the Boss? 7.30-8.30 Magnum 10.30 Scottish Questions 11.30 Randall & Hopkirk 12.25am Late Call.

TSW As London except: 9.25am News 9.30 House on the Harbour 10.20-11.30 Smurfs 1.20pm News 1.30-3.00 Film: Star of India 3.30-4.00 Young Doctors 5.15-5.45 Blockbusters 6.00-7.00 Friday Show 10.32 Film: Tomorrow's Child 12.15am Postscript 12.20 Film: Quatermass Experiment 1.45 Closedown.

TVS As London except: 9.25am Outlook 9.28 Once Upon a Time...Man 9.55-11.30 Rhodes of Africa" 1.20pm News 1.30-3.00 Gasbags" 3.30-4.00 Country GP 5.15-5.45 Blockbusters 6.00 Coast to Coast 6.30-7.00 Country Ways 10.30 Facing South 11.00 The Eagle has Landed 1.25am Company, close.

TYNE TEES As London except: 9.25am News 9.30 Paint with Nancy 9.35 World of Stories 10.10 Versailles 11.05-11.30 Short Story 1.20 News 1.30-3.00 For the Love of Ada 6.00 Northern Life 6.30-7.00 What Would You Do? 10.32 Extra Time 11.00 The World is Full of Married Men 12.40am Three's Company.

ULSTER As London except: 9.25am Day Ahead 9.30 Sesame Street 10.30 Smurfs 10.55 Once Upon a Time...Man 11.20 Felix the Cat 1.20pm Lunchtime 1.30-3.00 Film: An Alligator Named Daisy" 6.00 Good Evening Ulster 6.30-7.00 Spellbound 7.30-8.30 Fall Guy 10.30 Witness 10.35 Sportscast 11.05 Scarecrow and Mrs King 11.55 Rock of the Seventies 12.25am News, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except: 9.25am Spacewatch 9.40 Leave it to Mrs O'Brien 10.05 Life with Blondie" 11.20-11.30 Professor Kitzel 1.20pm News 1.25 Help Yourself 1.30-3.00 Johnny on the Spot" 5.00 Calendar 6.30-7.00 Knight Rider 7.30-8.30 Magnum 10.30 Blues Brothers 12.50am Jobfinder 1.50 Close.

S4C Starts: 12.25pm Ray Charles 1.45 Lordship's House 2.00 Countdown 2.30 Racing 4.35 Smyrfs 5.15 Chwarter Cyl 5.30 The Tube 7.00 Newyddion Saith 7.30 Ma 'Ilan 'Ma 8.10 Sonamdam 8.40 Byd Ar Bedwar 9.40 Insignificance 11.40 Jazz 12.20 Close.

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Radio 1

MF (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below)
News on the half-hour from **6.30am** until **8.30pm** *then* **10.00** *and* **12.00** *midnight*
5.30am Adrian John **7.00** Mike Smith's Breakfast Show **9.30** Simon Bates **12.30pm** Newsbeat (Frank Partridge) **12.45** Gary Davies **3.00** Bruno Brookes **5.30** Newsbeat (Frank Partridge) **5.45** Singled Out **7.00** Andy Peebles **10.00-12.00** *The Friday Rock Show.* **VHF** Stereo RADIOS 1 and 2:- **4.00am** As Radio 2 **10.00pm** As Radio 1 **12.00-4.00am** As Radio 2.

Radio 2

MF (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see Radio 1).
News on the hour (except **7.00am, 9.00**). Sports Desks **6.31, 7.31, 8.31, 12.01pm, 1.05, 2.02, 3.01, 4.02, 5.05, 6.02, 6.45** (mf only). **9.55, 11.02, 12.05pm**. .
4.00am Colin Berry **5.30** Ray Moore **7.30** Derek Jameson **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.00** David Frost **1.05pm** David Jacobs **2.00** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Adrian Love **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** A Song For Europe. (simultaneous broadcast with BBC2) **8.00** Friday Night is Music Night **9.15** The Organist Entertains **10.00** Paul Hudson Sings **10.30** Press Gang **11.00** Stuart Hall **1.00am** Nightride **3.00-4.00** A Little Night Music

WORLD SERVICE

6.00 Newsdesk **6.30** Meridian **7.00** News **7.09** Twenty-Four Hours **7.30** Folk Entertainers **7.45** Merchant Navy Programme **8.00** News **8.09** Reflections **8.15** Loved by the Gods **8.30** Music Now **9.00** News **9.09** Review of the British Press **9.15** World Today **9.30** Financial News followed by: Look Ahead **9.45** Hora du Lec **10.00** News **10.01** Soundtracking **10.15** Merchant Navy Programme (until 10.30) **11.00** News **11.09** News About Britain **11.15** In the Meantime **11.25** A Letter From Northern Ireland **11.30** Meridian **12.00** Radio Newsreel **12.15** Jazz For The Asking **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** News **1.09** Twenty-Four Hours **1.30** John Peel **2.00** Outlook, opening with News Summary **2.45** Nature Notebook **3.00** Radio Newsreel **3.15** European Community **4.00** News **4.08** Commentary (until 4.15) **7.00** Outlook **7.39** Stock Market Report **7.45** Society Today **8.00** News **8.09** Twenty-Four Hours **8.30** Science in Action **9.00** News **9.01** Network UK **9.15** Music Now **9.45** A Night to Remember **10.00** News **10.09** The World Today **10.25** A Letter from Northern Ireland **10.30** Financial News **10.40** Reflections **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.09** Commentary **11.15** From the Weeklies **11.30** Multitrack 3 **12.00** News **12.09** News About Britain **12.15** Radio Newsreel **12.30** Society Today **12.45** Recording of the Week **1.00** News **1.01** Outlook **1.30** Soundabout **1.45** Nature Notebook **2.00** News **2.09** Review of the British Press **2.15** Network UK **2.30** People and Politics **3.00** News **3.09** News about Britain **3.15** World Today (until 3.30) **4.45** Reflections **4.50** Financial News **5.00** News **5.09** Twenty-Four Hours; News Summary (until 5.30) **All times in GMT.**

Radio 3

6.35 Open University. Education bulletin. *Until* **6.55**
6.55 Weather. **7.00** News
7.05 Morning Concert: Zipoli (Suite in F: Jean-Francois Paillard CO, with Maurice André, trumpet), Martucci (Nocturne: LSO under Gamba), Chausson (Symphony in B flat: Belgian RSO under Sarabrier). **8.00** News
8.05 Concert (contd): Handel (Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op 6 No 10: ECO under Leppard), Rimsky-Korsakov (Novelette, Op 11 No 2: Fingernut. piano), Mendelssohn (Symphony No 1: LSO under Abbado). **9.00** News
9.05 This Week's Composer: Stravinsky. Agon (London Sinfonietta under David Atherton), Requiem Canticles (Columbia SO, Ithaca College Choir, and soloists, conducted by Robert Craft). Variations for orchestra, Aldous Huxley in memoriam (Columbia SO under Robert Craft), Owl and pussy cat (Adrienne Albert, soprano, and Robert Craft, piano)
10.00 Langham Chamber Orchestra (under Meredith Davies). Haydn (Symphony No 42), Robert Fuchs (Serenade No 4)
10.55 Helmut Krebs: the tenor with Simon Standage (violin), Suki Tawb (cello) and Celia Harper (organ and harpsichord). Buxtehude (Singet dem Herrn), Telemann (Packe dich, gelahmter Drache)
11.20 Glenn Gould: piano recital. Scriabin (Sonata No 3 in F sharp minor, Op 23), Prokofiev (Sonata No 7)
12.10 BBC Philharmonic (under Bernhard Klee), with Miriam Fried (violin). Part one. Mozart (Symphony No 35), Spohr (Violin Concerto No 8).
1.00 News
1.05 BBC Philharmonic Orchestra concert (continued): Ravel (Alborada de gracioso: Pavane pour une infante défunte; Botero.
1.40 Virgina Black: harpsichord recital. J C Bach (Sonatas in C minor, Op 5 No 6 and E, Op 5 No 5), W F Bach (Polonaises No 1, No 2 and No 8)
2.15 Rachmaninov's Second Symphony: played by Los Angeles PO under Rattle
3.20 Cello sonatas: Richard Lester (cello). Susan Tomes (piano). Beethoven's Sonata in D, Op 102 No 2; Schumann's Fantasiestucke, Op 73; Weber's Three Little Pieces, Op 11
4.00 Choral Vespers: from Ampleforth Abbey. The organist is Simon Wright, and the Master of the Choristers, Jonathan Leonard.
5.00 World Service News
5.05 Mainly for Pleasure: recorded music selection, presented by Micheal Berkeley. **6.55** News
7.00 Lenten Oratorios: Carissimi (Judicium Salomonis: Gabrieli Consort and Players), Marc-Antoine Charpentier (Magdelena lugens: Concerto Vocale)
7.30 Guitar music: Ernesto Bitetti plays works by Anton Garcia Abril (Five evocations, and Habanera), Granados (Spanish Dance No 5)
8.00 Bournemouth SO (under Vernon Handley). With Felix Schmidt (cello). Part one. Dvorak (Cello Concerto). A live transmission from the Guildhall in Southampton.
8.40 The Fog of War: conflict and technology. Talk by Lawrence Freedman, Professor of War Studies, King's College, London
9.00 Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Concert from Southampton: (continued): Robert Simpson (Symphony No 9)
10.00 Theatre of the Absurd: Dinsdale Landen, Gwen Watford and Alison Steadman in James Saunders's Barnstable (see Choice)
10.30 Schubert: the song-cycle Die schona Mullerin. Anthony Rolfe Johnson (tenor), Graham Johnson (piano)
11.57 News. **12.00** Closedown

Radio 4

LF (long wave). (s) stereo on VHF
5.55 Shipping **6.00** *News*; Weather **6.10** Farming **6.25** Prayer (s)
6.30 Today incl **6.30, 7.30, 8.30** News **6.45** Business News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.00, 8.00** News **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.35** Yesterday in Parliament **8.50** Letters **8.57** Weather; Travel
9.00 News
9.05 Desert Island Discs. Anthony Andrews, actor, is Michael Parkinson's castaway guest (r)
9.45 The Best Day of your Life? (new series) Marjorie Lofthouse talks to Sebastian Coe about the day he ran the 1500 metres final at the Moscow Olympics.
10.00 News; International Assignment. BBC correspondents report from around the world
10.30 Morning Story, Ashes to Ashes by Jeremy Tiptaft. Read by Kim Wall.
10.45 Daily Service. From the Crypt Chapel of the Palace of Westminster (s)
11.00 News; Travel; The Women Behind William. Mary Cadogan's portrait of Richmal Crompton, creator of William Brown (r)
11.48 Blind Dates. Peter White recalls his problems as a blind adolescent in coping with first encounters with the opposite sex
12.00 News; The Food Programme with Derek Cooper
12.27 Nineteen Ninety-Eight. Futuristic comedy drama starring David Threlfall (s)
1.00 The World at One. News
1.40 The Archers **1.55** Shipping
2.00 News; Woman's Hour from Bristol. Includes a feature on the joys and pain of buying a second hand car.
3.00 News; Martin Chuzzlewit by Charles Dickens in 10 parts. The final episode (r)
4.00 News
4.05 Inheritance (new series) The Green Roofs of Windermere. David Bean talks to George Pattinson about his family's influence on the growth of the Windermere area
4.30 Kaleidoscope
5.00 PM. News magazine
5.50 Shipping **5.55** Weather
6.00 News. Financial report
6.30 Going Places. Clive Jacobs and his team survey the world of travel and transport
7.00 News
7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week. Margaret Howard selects moments from BBC television and radio programmes.
8.20 Any Questions? Joining John Timpson in Widnes, Cheshire, are Bruce Kent (Vice-Chairman, CND), Rosie Barnes MP, John Ashcroft (Guardian Young Businessman of the Year), and David Hunt MP (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Energy)
9.05 Time Remembered. Ian Skidmore talks to Richard Evans, former coxswain of the Moelfre lifeboat and holder of two RNLI Gold medals
9.30 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke
9.45 Kaleidoscope. Poet Gavin Ewart explores the themes of his work with fellow poet Anthony Thwaite
10.15 A Book at Bedtime. Victory by Joseph Conrad (15). Read by John Franklyn-Robbins **10.29** Weather
10.30 The World Tonight
11.00 Today in Parliament
11.15 The Financial World Tonight
11.30 Week Ending. Satirical review (s)
12.00 News; weather **12.33** Shipping

VHF (available in England and S Wales only) as above except: **5.55-6.00am** Weather; Travel **11.00-12.00** For Schools: The China Project **11.00** Special Occasions **11.20** Chen Qiang's story **11.40** The Peasants Revolt (s) **1.55-3.00pm** For Schools: **1.55** Listening Corner (s) **2.00** Business and Practical French **2.30** Black Poetry **5.50-5.55** PM (continued) **12.30-1.10am** Schools Night Time Broadcasting. Quest 9: Ramadan and Eid-ul-Fitr 10: The Pilgrimage to Makka (s).

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; **Radio 2:** 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; **Radio 3:** 1215kHz/247m; VHF-90-92.5; **Radio 4:** 200kHz/1500m; VHF-92-95; **LBC:** 1152kHz/261m; VHF 97.3; **Capital:** 1548kHz/194m; VHF95.8; **BBC Radio London:** 1458kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; **World Service:** MF 648kHz/463m.

THE TIMES
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SPORT

Watford facing injury crisis for Cup semi-final

By Clive White

Lightning struck Watford's FA Cup semi-final preparations twice in the same spot when Steve Sherwood, their reserve goalkeeper, dislocated a finger in training yesterday exactly six days after Tony Coton, the first choice, broke his thumb.

Should Sherwood fail a fitness test tomorrow morning the job of defying Tottenham Hotspur, Clive Allen and all, will go to Gary Plumley, the elder son of Eddie, Watford's chief executive – that is if he can avoid walking under any ladders. Plumley will step into the Villa Park cauldron before an estimated crowd of 45,000 straight from the less-pressurized existence of Ebbw Vale, for whom he has been playing for the last two seasons in the Welsh League.

Plumley senior admitted that his son was signed last

Elton John is not selling Watford. The millionaire pop-star delivered that message to his players today as loudly and clearly as his recent throat operation would allow. "He told me that the story he intends selling out is a complete fabrication. there is no truth in it all," declared the Watford chief executive, Eddie Plumley, after taking his chairman's telephone call. The message was then relayed to the manager, Graham Taylor.

Saturday morning on Football Combination forms in the "unlikely necessity" of having to call upon him. "You don't expect to lose two first line goalkeeper in six days, least of all just before an FA Cup semi-final," he said. Sherwood, just as Coton had done, damaged his finger in training, catching it on the ground as he attempted to gather a shot from Steve Sims. "It is unbelievable," Graham Taylor, the Watford manager, said from the team's headquarters at Lilleshall last night.

If Watford were unsure of what to expect with the erratic Sherwood between the posts, then Plumley is even more of an unknown quantity to Watford, Eddie Plumley apart. He has played in just four League games since December, 1982, and because of business commitments in Caerleon where he lives he became a non-contract player for Ebbw Vale this season. He has made just one League appearance this season for Newport County on March 21 against Chester which Newport lost 2-0.

Keith Saunders, the Newport secretary, commented: "He is a good goalkeeper – at least he was when we had him a few seasons ago. He was one of the best." In fact Plumley, who is aged 30, is not without some experience of big occasions, albeit on a lower key than that which confronts him tomorrow. Between 1976 and '80 he played 182 League games for Newport and figured in their historic run six seasons ago to the quarter-final round of the European Cup Winners' Cup.

Eddie Plumley described him as a "calm lad with a good head on his shoulders," adding: "When I told him he was playing, he merely answered 'Fine, where do you want me?' He has been keyed up all week. When he agreed to sign non-contract forms last week he said to me 'I'll do it on the assumption that I'm playing next week.'"

Eddie Plumley explained that the only goalkeeping cover they had at the club last week was David James, a 16-year-old

Plumley senior, whose younger son, Ian, is also a goalkeeper, and once played in an FA Cup first round tie for St Albans City, could hardly suppress the joy at his son's golden opportunity. "I'm delighted for the lad and I'm terrible sorry for Tony and Steve."



Happy days are back at Craven Cottage: Jimmy Hill introduces the new Fulham board, from left: Peter Borender (director) Cyril Swain (director), Bill Muddyman (vice-chairman) and Dave Gardner (director) Report page 32

Another British group in the cup

By Malcolm McKeag

Peter de Savary, still regarded as Britain's master of 12-meter yacht racing, yesterday won the first heat of the British race for the next America's Cup challenge by being the first syndicate head to announce his plans. PdS, as he loves to be known, will be deputy chairman and chief executive of the £10 million Blue Arrow Challenge.

Tony Berry, the Blue Arrow chairman, said yesterday that although de Savary is the chief executive, he will not run the campaign in the same individualistic way that his 1983 Victory campaign was conducted.

Instead, he will chair a committee currently involving Chris Law and three of Britain's top designers: Tony Castro, Rob Humphreys and Ed Dubois. Ron Holland, the New Zealand designer, based in Cork who was one of the triumvirate which designed New Zealand II, the spectacularly successful Cup finalist in Fremantle, is retained as a consultant.

Also retained is Derek Clark, former Victory tactician and (despite being British) Iain Murray's right-hand man in the recent unsuccessful Australian defence. This is a blow to Graham Walker's BACC, the other principal British syndicate in the field, who had hoped to secure Clark's services.

At this stage, despite de Savary's bravely announced plans to build up to five yachts in preparation for the challenge, technical details are necessarily vague. The International Yacht Racing Union and the San Diego Yacht Club, the cup-holders, have still to decide on whether or not to allow commercial names on the yachts themselves, recent changes to Rule 26 notwithstanding.

The International Twelve Metre Association management group meets at the end of this month to discuss an agenda for the meeting in June which may ban glass fibre construction and indeed Dennis Conner's victorious club have still to announce where and even when the next challenge will be held.

Nonetheless, de Savary's hat is once again firmly in the ring.

Simon Barnes, page 32

Tracey defends passport policy

By John Goodbody

Dick Tracey, the Minister for Sport, yesterday told the governing body of European football, UEFA, why the Government will not withdraw passports from known football hooligans.

Mr. Tracey wrote to Jacques Georges,the president of UEFA, who last month continued its indefinite ban on English clubs playing in the three European competitions, explaining the government's reasons.

The European governing body understandably remains worried at a minority of English supporters still being able to export hooliganism across the Channel, as was shown last August by the violence on the ferries and also before and after England's recent practice match in Spain.

English football authorities have frequently asked the government to intervene.

But Mr. Tracey told Mr. Georges that withdrawing passports was "neither acceptable nor effective – a conclusion which I suspect most other governments inevitably would reach too.

"Unlike some totalitarian states, the United Kingdom does not regard a passport as a licence to travel but as a document which establishes nationality and identity."

Mr. Tracey pointed out that temporary British Visitors Passports are readily available and to control their availability would adversely affect thousands of law-abiding citizens.

He also outlined the Government's measures to control hooliganism. This has included legislation on the sale of alcohol, enhanced police powers, installation of close circuit television at grounds and the introduction of membership schemes.

Lyle finds it a struggle

From Mitchell Platts
Golf Correspondent
Augusta

John Cook, of the United States, set the early pace with a three-under-par 69 in the first round of the Masters on the Augusta National Course under blue skies here yesterday. But Sandy Lyle's habit of struggling through the opening round continued. In the past he has scored 73, 74, 76 (twice) and 78 and on this occasion he took 77.

Lyle was in trouble from the moment his drive at the first struck the trees on the left. He dropped a shot there and another at the third, where his chip from the back of the green sped across the putting surface so that he was compelled to chip back again. Then he missed the greens with his tee shots at both the short fourth and sixth holes.

It was not until the seventh that he struck a green in regulation and, after an outward 40, and another dropped shot at the tenth, he faced a formidable battle.

In contrast Howard Clark made a fine start to his first Masters. He obtained his par at the first with two good putts from 40 feet and collected a birdie at the second, where his attempt for an eagle from 10 feet lipped the hole. Tony Jacklin had suggested before the start that the course would suit Clark and so it seemed as the blond Yorkshireman made his way to the turn in a one-under-par 35.

Meanwhile the defending champion made an inauspicious start. Jack Nicklaus hooked his opening drive some 100 yards to the left and the ball clattered through the towering Georgia pines, before ricocheting off the shoulder of a marshall and onto the centre of the ninth fairway.

He did, however, recover the shot that he dropped there by making a birdie at the second, where he holed from 10 feet.

Card of the course

Augusta National

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	400	4	10	485	4
2	555	5	11	455	4
3	360	4	12	155	3
4	205	3	13	465	5
5	435	4	14	405	4
6	180	3	15	500	5
7	360	4	16	170	3
8	535	5	17	400	4
9	435	4	18	405	4
Out	3,465	36	In	3,440	36

Total yardage: 6,905 Par: 72

Bernhard Langer made the best beginning of the European contingent by collecting three birdies in his first four holes while ahead of him Severiano Ballesteros strung together eight successive pars. He might have extracted a birdie from the eighth, after two fine blows left him within 80 yards of the green.

However his pitch from there narrowly failed to topple over a ridge running through the green and the ball trickled backwards, so as to finish 30 feet from the hole. The Spaniard held his fingers about one inch apart so as to indicate how close he had come to executing the perfect shot. It was a clear sign how fractions of an inch would play their part in this Masters.

The Augusta National greens have rarely been firmer or faster on the first day. It called for a resolute spirit and Fuzzy Zoeller, the 1979 champion, tossed his putter through the air after taking four to get down from the edge of the green at the third. Zoeller's caddie smartly caught the club although the caddie of Lanny Wadkins was not so quick.

Wadkins, after taking three putts on that green from only 10 feet, had then to repair a dent in the green where his putter had come to ground. "He's so hot right now that you could fry an egg on his head," said one wag

King overcomes the agony

By Mel Webb

The walking wounded led the charge in the first round of the £100,000 Jersey Open golf championship at La Moye yesterday as the former Ryder Cup player, Michael King, shook off the effects of a crippling disease to head the field with a round of 65, seven under par.

King, aged 37, suffers from spondilitis, an hereditary and agonizing form of arthritis which restricted his appearances on the European tour last year to a handful of tournaments. His season came to an abrupt end when he had his right knee rebuilt after surgery to remove a cyst.

Six weeks on crutches following the operation allowed the spondilitis to flare up again, and even now he can play only with the aid of half-a-dozen anti-inflammatory pills a day, plus liberal doses of painkillers and the occasional large whisky.

"I couldn't have played another hole," King said after hobbling off the last green. "I know I can still play this game. The only thing I don't know is whether my legs and feet will stand up to it, and the only way to find out is to get out there and do my best."

King, who needed his status as one of the top 40 career money-winners on the tour to get him into the tournament after finishing 141st in the Order of Merit last year, saved his best for the inward half. Starting his round from the tenth tee, he dropped shots on two holes, but a birdie and an eagle three helped him to the turn in 35, one under par.

With the pain starting to bite, he then produced a remarkable burst of four birdies and an eagle in the next seven holes, chipping in from 15 feet at the 481-yard sixth for a three. Pars at the last two holes brought him home in 30.

Card of course

Hole	Yds	Par	Hole	Yds	Par
1	159	3	10	368	4
2	518	5	11	497	5
3	188	3	12	166	3
4	424	4	13	427	4
5	449	4	14	190	3
6	481	5	15	376	4
7	372	4	16	479	5
8	412	4	17	428	4
9	435	4	18	390	4
Out	3,438	36	In	3,321	36

Total yardage: 6,759 Par: 72

"I've got to keep fighting, but frankly I don't hold out much hope for the whole tournament," he said. But even if the former Walker Cup player does not last the 72 holes, he has still done enough to frighten the rest of a high-class field.

His performance, however, failed to dent the confidence of Ian Woosnam, who missed short putts on six holes, including opportunities for eagles on three of the four par-fives. He complained afterwards about a ruling which refused him a free drop when he landed in what he reckoned was ground under repair on the sixth, but was still pleased enough with his 68.

"I'm playing well," he said. "If I keep this up I could take a bit of stopping."

LEADING FIRST ROUND SCORES (GB unless stated): 65: M King, 68: J-M Canizares (Sp), F Nobilo (NZ), I Woosnam, D J Russell, J Hobday (SA), R Rafferty. 69: M Persson (Swe), D Smyth, M Mouland, W Mabey (US), D A Russell, G Turner. 70: J O' Leary, W Smith (Aus), D Llewellyn, G Taylor (Aus), L Jones, D Williams, P Walton, R Commans (US), M Martin (Sp), A Murray, J Morgan, D Feherty. 71: P Carrigill, M Allen (US), R Lee, A Charnley, W Humphreys, A Sherborne, T Armour III (US), G Levenson (SA), W Longmuir, P Way, D Durnian, M Poxon, P Baker, N Burke. 72: J Hawkes (SA), N Crosby (US), C Moody, G Ralph, R Drummond, A Chandler, J Rivero (Sp). 73: P Mitchell, J Heggarty, S Bennett, P Harrison, W Riley (Aus), R Hartmann (US).

Disciplined players recalled

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

The four players suspended by the Rugby Football Union after the bad-tempered match against Wales at Cardiff last month will all go to Australia as part of England's World Cup squad. They were named yesterday in a party of 25, to which one further player will be added over the weekend.

Gareth Chilcott and Graham Dawe of Bath, and Wade Dooley (Fylde) were all suspended from selection for last Saturday's game against Scotland because of acts of ill-discipline in the Welsh match. Richard Hill, also of Bath, was similarly disciplined for his apparent inability to control members of the side he then captained.

Michael Weston, the chairman of selectors who will manage the World-Cup party, said: "We chose them before. They are available now and we wanted them." However Simon Halliday, the Bath centre recalled against Scotland, is unable to travel because his work as a stockbroker does not allow him to take nearly six weeks off. He is the only absentee from the XV that beat Scotland.

The party will be captained by Michael Harrison (Wakefield) who took over from Hill. "Things have moved quickly in the last month," he said. "It's something to lead your country but obviously it's really special to be in charge in the first World Cup."

The squad will go to Portugal for training for five days over Easter and preparations there will include a practice match against the Portuguese national side. They will leave for Australia on May 12 and will be in Brisbane for the opening ceremony on May 17.

Full England party, page 31

England keep their hopes alive

From Ivo Tennant, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

England and Australia must be so weary of each other's company that, for all the dollars and pride at stake, they could have been forgiven for showing it in their umpteenth match of the winter yesterday. No so. An enthralling contest was narrowly won by England, who, through their superior run rate, still have a chance of winning the Sharjah Cup.

If India beat Pakistan today, the cup is theirs. Otherwise it comes down to run rate. Pakistan need to win, restrict India and score at more than five an over to overhaul England and India. India, should they lose, can still win the cup by improving their run rate. One thing is certain: there will be bedlam in the ground and rioting tonight, if not in Sharjah.

Two years ago, Australia beat England here off the last ball. It was not so close yesterday – England won a little more comfortably than a margin of 11 runs suggest – but it was probably a better and classier match.

That Australia came so close to winning was due almost entirely to Border and Boon, who came together at seven for two, chasing the highest score of the competition, and put on 159 in 33 overs on a slow pitch.

The fielding was becoming ragged and Small was struggling with the side muscle injury that kept him out of England's first match. The match turned only when Boon played just about his first forced shot.

He had a 73 off 109 balls to add to 71 and 62 in the competition when he sliced a drive to long-off. Two balls later Border swung Emburey to deep square leg where Bailey took a neat low catch. At that stage, Australia needed 69 off 10 and a half overs, but the asking rate was soon up to eight an over. Then they did look tired of England's company.

In the morning it had seemed as if the attendance would be the smallest for any one-day match between Australia and England. But Thursday is a half-day in Sharjah, and by mid-afternoon the crowd had swelled to about 8,000. Not many were from Down Under: indeed there is not one Australian journalist here.

England had been put in and began with a century opening stand in 25 overs. Gooch struck 86 in 119 balls with seven fours and a six, and Broad continued his remarkable run of form, albeit helped by an attack that persisted in feeding his favourite clip off his legs.

Fairbrother got off the mark with a straight six and made a useful 32 but the rate slowed when Bailey, playing his first match, and Whitaker, who had a foot injury, mustered only 11 off seven overs.

ENGLAND

G A Gooch lbw b Waugh	86
B C Broad b Taylor	44
R T Robinson lbw b O'Donnell	5
N H Fairbrother run out	32
R J Bailey c O'Donnell b Reid	11
D J Capel run out	17
*J E Emburey not out	18
P A J DeFreitas not out	1
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 6, nb 2)	16
Total (6 wkts, 50 overs)	230

G C Small, N A Foster and †C J Richards did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-118, 2-125, 3-167, 4-188, 5-193, 6-229.

BOWLING: Reid 10-0-50-1; Davis 8-3-24-0; Matthews 7-0-31-0; Waugh 10-1-49-1; Taylor 7-0-41-1; O'Donnell 8-0-27-1

AUSTRALIA

G R Marsh lbw DeFreitas	0
D C Boon c Broad b Emburey	73
D M Wellham c Robinson b Small	2
*A R Border c Bailey b Emburey	84
S P O'Donnell run out	6
S R Waugh b Foster	14
G R J Matthews c Gooch b DeFreitas	13
†T J Zoehrer run out	1
P L Taylor not out	14
B A Reid run out	2
S P Davis not out	3
Extras (lb 6, nb 1)	7
Total (9 wkts, 50 overs)	219

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-7, 3-166, 4-166, 5-177, 6-195, 7-200, 8-200, 9-204.

BOWLING: DeFreitas 10-1-40-2; Small 9-1-33-1; Capel 5-0-28-0; Gooch 6-0-34-0; Emburey 10-1-38-2; Foster 10-0-50-1.

Sharjah standings

Team	P	W	L	Run Rate	Pts
England	3	2	1	4.47	4
India	2	2	0	4.29	4
Pakistan	2	1	1	4.09	2
Australia	3	0	3	3.79	0

REMAINING MATCH: Today: India v Pakistan

SPORT IN BRIEF

Halifax takeover

Halifax Town is to become the first Football League club in history to be run by a local council. In exchange for pumping money into the club, which was only days away from extinction, the Halifax-based Calderdale Council are forcing seven of the club's eight directors to resign.

The chairman, John Madeley, will remain to sit on a committee with council officials and representatives from the supporters club

Taylor departs

Somerset have agreed to release seam bowler Nick Taylor from his contract so that he can take up a position as a night club manager. Taylor, who is 23, took 29 wickets for Somerset in 1986, having previously played for Surrey and Yorkshire.



Haslam: tuning up

Haslam joy

Ron Haslam warmed up for the Easter motorcycling clash with America for the Transatlantic Challenge by testing an "American-style" superbike at Donington Park yesterday, and was particularly pleased with his VFR Honda 750. There are no surprises in the teams, with the exception of Simon Buckmaster being placed reserve in the British side.

Hyland date

John Hyland, Liverpool's 24-year-old former ABA champion, who has been beaten only once in nine professional contests, will box Glasgow's Billy Holmes in a British bantamweight title final eliminator at Everton Park sports centre, Liverpool on April 24.

Tough line

Several players received tough suspensions at the Rugby League disciplinary committee meeting in Leeds yesterday. Four-match bans were imposed on Steve Maguire (Barrow), Tommy Gittins (Barrow), Steve Kirkby (Carlisle) and Andrew Timson (Doncaster), while Darren Bloor (Salford) suffered a three-match suspension.

New arrival

Chelsea have signed the former Wimbledon chief executive, Colin Hutchinson, as a special project director.

Honeyghan threat to quit the ring

Lloyd Honeyghan, the world welterweight boxing champion, held one of the shortest Press conferences of all time yesterday, to announce that he is about to retire – unless.

Honeyghan stood on his feet in a London hotel for 45 seconds to say: "I'm going to surprise you today. I'm cheesed off with boxing, and if my next fight is not against Sugar Ray Leonard or Duane Thomas, I am retiring." He then walked out and refused to say another word.

Honeyghan, who is due to defend his World Boxing Council (WBC) world title against Maurice Blocker, of the United States, at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday week, retreated to his hotel room and did not reappear until it was time to go training. Then he would not talk to reporters at his gym.

His trainer Bobby Neill claimed to be as shocked as everyone else and said: "He told me something about it last night, but I did not take it seriously." He could see no clear reason for Honeyghan's action, "though the fact that he is such a hard trainer may have made him tired mentally."

Neither Honeyghan's manger Mickey Duff nor the promoter Mike Barrett was at the conference, but their associate Jarvis Astaire said he thought it was a strange time for Honeyghan to have these ideas, since he was now earning "outstanding money". He also said that the show on Easter Saturday night was already heavily sold.

Honeyghan has not given himself any time scale. He knows he cannot fight Leonard, the new WBC middleweight champion, for a long time to come, if at all, and that the light-middleweight champion Duane Thomas may not be available either.

Scaramouche wins race to Jamaica

Montego Bay, Jamaica – Scaramouche, of Warwick, a Swan 48 owned by a syndicate from the New York Yacht Club led by Arthur B Baer, was yesterday the first yacht to cross the finish line in the 811-mile Johnny Walker race from Miami (Roger Lean-Vercoe writes).

RESULTS: IMF class: 1, Scaramouche of Warwick (A Baer), 4days 07hr 46min 01sec (corrected time); 2, Eclipse (O Polak), 5:02:26:18s (cd). Handicap class: 1, Ugly Duckling (G Sharp), 4:14:27:37; 2, Iroquois (J Delisser), 4:14:58:43s.

Crafty Garrison

From Linda Pentz, Hilton Head, South Carolina

Zina Garrison and Gabriela Sabatini, two young players who are challenging to reach the top, won easy third round matches yesterday in the $300,000 Family Circle Cup tennis tournament here.

Miss Garrison, 23, and seeded third, defeated 15-year-old Mary Joe Fernandez, seeded ninth, 6-1, 6-2 in 64 minutes. Miss Sabatini, 16, and the fifth seed, beat Hu Na, formerly of China and now a United States citizen, 6-2, 6-2 in one hour and 15 minutes.

Miss Garrison was too quick and crafty for Miss Fernandez, who has steady ground strokes but no net game. Miss Garrison mixed slice with top spin, made the occasional sprint to net and threw in a drop shot here and there as Miss Fernandez failed to hold service in the first set. In the second set, Miss Garrison took an early lead and served out the match at 5-2

Miss Sabatini was impressed by her opponent's adventurous style, but did not let this affect her. After winning the first set 6-2, Miss Sabatini traded breaks of service with Miss Hu, but from 2-2 reeled off four straight games to win the match.

Results, page 32

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